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OF THE

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SEVENTH SERIES. — VOL. II.

Published at the Charge of the Massachusetts Historical Trust Fund.

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1861.

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1865.

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1869.

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1871.

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1883.

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1900.

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Members who have died, or of whose death information has been received, since the last volume of Collections was issued, August 28, 1900, arranged in the order of their election, and with date of death.

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George Bigelow Chase, A.M.	June 2, 1902.
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Uriel Haskell Crocker, LL.B.	March 8, 1902.
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Hon. William Maxwell Evarts, LL.D.	Feb. 28, 1901.
Samuel Rawson Gardiner, D.C.L.	Feb. 23, 1902.
Rt. Rev. Mandell Creighton, D.D.	Jan. 14, 1901.

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Charles Jeremy Hoadly, LL.D.	Oct. 19, 1900.
Rev. Moses Coit Tyler, LL.D.	Dec. 28, 1900.
George Washington Ranck, Esq.	Aug. 2, 1901.
Hon. William Wirt Henry	Dec. 5, 1900.
Herbert Baxter Adams, LL.D.	July 30, 1901.

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PREFACE.

THIS Society has heretofore printed two volumes of selections from the "Trumbull Papers" contained in its archives, — volumes IX. and X. of the Fifth Series of its Collections. The first comprises "Early Miscellaneous Papers," "Letters of Dr. William Samuel Johnson from December, 1766, to January, 1771," and "Letters of Jedidiah Huntington, from April, 1775, to April, 1776"; and the second comprises the correspondence between General Washington and Governor Trumbull, with a few letters from Washington to Gates, Putnam, and others, and the correspondence during the years 1775 to 1778 between Trumbull and Joseph Warren, James Warren, Thomas Gage, and John Hancock. It is the purpose to print now a selection from the remaining letters and other documents relating to the War of the Revolution, beginning with the year 1777, and ending with the Peace of Paris in 1783. The earlier letters and documents of the Revolutionary period were printed many years ago in Force's "American Archives," by the permission of this Society, which was not then in a condition to bear the cost of publication, and they are therefore not included in the present volumes. Most of the letters are originals, filed and indorsed by Trumbull's own hand; but a considerable number, as indicated in

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the editorial foot-notes, are from copies in Trumbull's "Letter Books," made at some indefinite time after the receipt of the letters. There is no reason to doubt the substantial accuracy of these copies; but it should be added that Trumbull's copyist was very careless, especially with regard to the spelling of proper names, and it is only fair to infer that obvious errors of any kind are quite as likely to be due to him as to the writers, though many of the latter were illiterate persons, who wrote with no advantages of time or place. In printing, the spelling of the originals and of the copies in the "Letter Books" has been carefully followed, but the capitalization and the punctuation have been made to conform to modern usage.

Jonathan Trumbull, the ablest and most energetic of the war governors of the Revolutionary period, was the third son of Captain Joseph Trumbull, and was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, on the 12th of October, 1710. At the age of thirteen he entered Harvard College, in the same class with Thomas Hutchinson, afterward the not less able and eminent, though less fortunate, historian and Governor of Massachusetts. He graduated with good rank in 1727, but the Commencement programme does not show the subject of his graduating thesis. Three years later, when he took his Master's degree, he responded in the negative to the question, "Are there in the sacred Scriptures real contradictions which cannot in any way be explained?" After leaving college he studied for the ministry with Rev. Dr. Solomon Williams, of Lebanon, and at an early age was invited to become the settled minister of the adjoining town of Colchester. While considering the acceptance of this call, his plans were suddenly changed by the loss at sea of his eldest brother, and he determined to

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enter into commercial business as a partner with his father. He afterward continued in trade, alone or with various partners, nearly to the close of his life. In 1733 he was elected by his native town a deputy or representative to the General Assembly, which office he filled for fifteen years, being elected Speaker three times. In 1740 he was chosen one of the Assistants, and served in that capacity for twenty-two years. From 1766 to 1770 he was Deputy Governor, and from the latter year until 1783, when he declined a re-election, he was annually elected Governor. Besides these offices he filled for one year the office of Assistant Judge of the Windham County Court, and for seventeen years that of Chief Judge of the same Court; was Judge of Probate for the Windham district for nineteen years; Chief Justice of the Superior and Supreme Courts of the Colony for four years; and at different times he held other appointments of inferior importance.

In December, 1735, he was married to Faith, daughter of Rev. John Robinson, of Duxbury, Mass., and great-granddaughter of John Robinson, the minister of the Plymouth Pilgrims. They had six children, — Joseph, Commissary General in the Revolutionary army (born March 11, 1737, died July 23, 1778); Jonathan, Paymaster General in the army, and afterward Governor of the State (born March 26, 1740, died August 7, 1809); Faith (born January 25, 1743, died November 24, 1775), wife of Jedidiah Huntington; Mary (born July 16, 1745, died February 9, 1831), wife of William Williams, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; David (born February 5, 1751, died January 17, 1822), father of Governor Joseph Trumbull; and John, soldier, artist, and autobiographer (born June 6, 1756, died November 10, 1843). Mrs. Faith Trumbull died at Lebanon, May

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29, 1780, three years before the close of the war. Her husband survived her more than five years, and died in his native town August 17, 1785. In 1779 he received the degree of LL.D. from Yale College, and in the year of his death he received the same degree from the University of Edinburgh.

It is, perhaps, needless to add that Trumbull was a man of unusual ability, clear-headed, of sound judgment, unbending integrity, and great energy, intensely devoted to the American cause in every stage of the contest with the mother country, and that he possessed in large measure the confidence of all who came in contact with him. The letters now printed will amply confirm the reputation which he has borne for more than a century and a quarter, and will throw fresh light on the period illustrated by them.

Since this volume was electrotyped, and a large part of the next volume was put in type, the Committee have been deprived of the valuable co-operation of their associate, George Bigelow Chase, who died on the 2d of June. Mr. Chase had taken much interest in the prosecution of the work, and had previously served on the Publishing Committee for the Second Part of the "Trumbull Papers." His loss will be keenly felt by the surviving members of the Committee, as well as by the Society, of which he had been an active member for more than twenty-five years.

For the Committee,

CHARLES C. SMITH.

Boston, July 10, 1902.

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THE TRUMBULL PAPERS.

Part III.

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THE TRUMBULL PAPERS.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON.*

LEBANON, 26th Febr, 1776.

DEAR SIR, — Your favour of the 15th was delivered me the 22nd instant; † it always gives me pleasure to receive your letters, and know from your own hands the state you and the rest of my dear connections are in. All here are in usual health, except our dear Revd Pastor; ‡ he appears to be just at the entrance of the dark valley of the Shaddows of Death. I left him at 12 o'clo., his family in tears; he is calm, patient, and resigned. He is troubled with a terrible cough, and extream difficulty of respiration, occasioned by a hard tumor in his throat of the scrophulous kind. The world and its contemptible state lessen before him at every thought. His friendship hath been one of the best comforts I have had for the insignificancy of myself. O! the vanity of man as mortal; O! the grandeur of him when prepared for

* Colonel, afterward General, Jedidiah Huntington was the eldest son of General Jabez Huntington, of Norwich, Conn., where he was born Aug. 4, 1743. He graduated with honor at Harvard College in 1763, and married first Faith Trumbull, and secondly, a little more than two years after her death, Ann Moore, a sister of Bishop Moore, of Virginia. He served with distinction during the War of the Revolution; and after its close he held various offices of honor and trust in civil life. He died Sept. 25, 1818. See 5 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ix. p. 493 n.; 2 Proceedings, vol. vii. p. 355; Miss Caulkins's History of Norwich, pp. 417, 418; Huntington Family Memoir, p. 162. — EDS.

† Colonel Huntington's letter was written from the Camp at Roxbury, and is printed in 5 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. ix. pp. 510, 511. — EDS.

‡ Rev. Solomon Williams, D.D. He was born in Hatfield, Mass., June 4, 1700; graduated at Harvard College in 1719; ordained pastor of the church in Lebanon, Conn., Dec. 5, 1722; and died there Feb. 29, 1776. See Sprague's Annals of the American Pulpit, vol. i. pp. 321–326. — EDS.

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immortal glory. The world after all is a little pitiful thing; not performing any one promise it makes us for the future, and every day taking away and annulling the joys of the past. A few days ago I had a dear affectionate daughter Faithy.* Alas! she is no more with us. Let us comfort one another, and if possible study to add as much more goodness, love, and friendship to each other as death has deprived us of in her. May we be furnished with divine support and help, be quickened in our own preparations for death and for our entrance into Eternity, that when the period of life is come we may quit this transitory world with joy and triumph in beleiving on him whom we have not seen, our dear ascended Saviour, whose name is *the Lord our Righteousness*. Your mother joyns with me in the tenderest affection for you and our dear children, praying for the divine blessing and protection ever to accompany you and them.

I am sorry the golden opportunity for attacking the strong fortress of our enemies in Boston is let slip for want of a necessary article, which Providence hath hitherto so much witheld, no doubt for wise purposes. We have this year seen the wonderful ways and marvellous works of the Lord. When we are doing our duty, and using such means as He hath put in our power, we may then stand still and hope to see his salvation. At the request of the General we have spared all the powder that prudence would permit; besides what we ordered from Providence, last week fourty hundred was carried from Norwich. All was safe in Canada about the 12th instant; the bridge over the lake firm and strong; troops marching on; ours will begin to go on by divisions this week, — shall send with them in casks about eight hundred weight of powder. We furnished for Gen^{l} Lee half a ton. Have nothing special this post from that quarter.

* Faith, third child of Jonathan Trumbull, was born Jan. 25, 1743; married in May, 1766, Jedidiah Huntington; and died at Dedham Nov. 24, 1775. — Eds.

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I suppose you and your brother Majr* comunicate my letters to each other; have not time to write him; have not any of his for a long time.

I am both your and his most affectionate

JONTH TRUMBULL.

Colo JED. HUNTINGTON.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO NATHANIEL WOODHULL.†

LEBANON, 22nd March, 1776.

SIR, — Eliphalet Dyer and William Williams, Esquires, are authorised and impowered by the Governor and Council appointed to assist him in the recess of the General Assembly, to move your body to grant this Colony for its use the loan of such a number and sizes of cannon as you can spare without detriment, which if granted the return of them or their value shall be secured. The reason of this application is, that we have undertaken to set the furnace at Salisbury in blast, to cast cannon, &c., for use at this important crisis of public affairs; that the hearth is laying, ore, coal, and every other necessary preparing, workmen provided for every part of the business, and hope to begin to cast cannon in all next month, or early in May. They can with greater ease be transported to New York, and used where needed, than bro't here. In the mean time fearing our necessity of canon for use before this work can be effected, and apprehending that a great number of various sizes may be spared your Colony without injury to the common service, do therefore hope for a compliance with our motion.

---

* John Trumbull. — EDS.

† Nathaniel Woodhull was at this time President of the Provincial Congress of New York. He was born in St. George's Manor, Long Island, Dec. 30, 1722, and died in New Utrecht, Long Island, Sept. 10, 1776. He served under Abercrombie in the attack on Crown Point and Ticonderoga in 1758, and under Amherst in 1760. He was a member of the colonial assembly of New York from 1769 to 1775. He was appointed a brigadier-general in the American army in August, 1775, and died of wounds received shortly after the battle of Long Island. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. vi. pp. 602, 603. — EDS.

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This Colony have been exploring lead mines; one at Middletown is opened, fifty or sixty tons of ore raised, a smelting furnace built there, and expect thirty or forty tons of lead to be run out soon. A com^tee appointed by our Assembly in Oct^r last to explore and examine a lead mine at New Canaan in your Colony made report at our session in December last, copy thereof is enclosed. If worthy your attention, and ore is raised there, the furnace at Middletown may serve for smelting what is raised at both places. Any service we can render your Colony in that or any other instance will be done with pleasure.

I am with great truth and regard, Sir,
Your most obedient, hum^ble servant,
J—— T——

Indorsed: To President Woodhull. ℔ Dyer & Williams, Esq^rs.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO PHILIP SCHUYLER.*

MIDDLETOWN, Jan^y 3, 1777.

SIR, — This acknowledges the receipt of your favor of 29^th ult^o. We are not favored with resolves or directions from Congress as usual; I suppose for the same reasons you mention in yours. I congratulate you upon General Washington's success in the Jerseys, which I hope will be attended with very happy consequences. I can assure you it affords me a very sensible pleasure to see you so well engaged in the common cause, and for the strong faith you seem to have in Fort Independence, and heartily wish you may not be disappointed. I shall at all times contribute all in my power towards strengthen-

* General Philip Schuyler (born in Albany, N. Y., Nov. 22, 1733, died there Nov. 18, 1804) was at this time in command of the northern department of New York. For a full account of his life, character, and services, see Lossing's Life and Times of Philip Schuyler. — EDS.

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ing that quarter. We shall do all in our power to keep the cannon foundery at Salisbury in blast through the winter, and shall spare no cost to do it, though we dare not greatly depend on the success of it. We have already sent to your State ten cannon of 12^{lbs} and ten of 6^{lbs}, but conclude they are used in some important place, otherwise they might go to the northward. We have at the furnace 4 eighteen pounders and two nine pounders, but have not at present water sufficient to boar them; as soon as that can be done am willing you should have them, and shall give order accordingly, with shot for them. I have seen Cap^{t} Winslow, and conferred with him about going to the northward, who seems to be well inclined to the business, and supposes he can engage a company. M^{r} Lester I have not seen, but doubt not he may be engaged. Shall take an early opportunity to see them, and advise you thereof. We are filling up our quota for the standing army with all possible expedition, and hope you may soon have the pleasure to see a good garrison at Ticonderoga and Fort Independence. We have lately recieved a letter from Congress wherein they express an ardent concern for a supply of cannon for the northward, earnestly requesting a supply from Salisbury furnace. If the furnace can be kept in blast and we are succeeded, hope shall be able to supply further.

Please to accept the return of my best regards and the compliments of the season, and wishing many happy years to you and yours in health and liberty, I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

J. T.

Hon^{ble} Maj^{r} General Schuyler.*

* General Schuyler's letter to which this is the answer is printed in 5 Force's American Archives, vol. iii. cols. 1476, 1477. — Eds.

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JAMES LIVINGSTON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

IN COMMITTEE OF SAFETY FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK.
FISHKILL, Jan^{y} 14th, 1777.

SIR, — The Committee have received your favor of the first instant and direct me to inform your Excellency, that altho' the expedient mentioned therein may tend in some sort to alleviate the difficulties which this State labored under by the embargo laid in Connecticut; yet we are of opinion, that it will not entirely remove them, and at the same time, in so far as that embargo relates to the inhabitants of this State, it will much injure the commerce of Connecticut.

You must be sensible, Sir, that at present all the articles of foreign produce which we can obtain, must come to us thro' the Eastern or Southern States. No fact can be clearer than this that every restraint on trade enhances the price of commodities. The impediments therefore in our commerce thro' your State will naturally turn the channel of it to the southward. Now, Sir, it being evident that the bringing of goods thro' the State of Connecticut must enrich that State, by the whole expence attending such land carriage, it is equally evident that every discouragement must work a considerable loss to that State.

I am further to observe to you, Sir, that this State is of all others in the most distressed situation; and every aggravation of our distresses will, you are sensible, put new arguments in the mouths of the disaffected, who let slip no oppertunity of painting in the liveliest colours the benefits we should reap from an immediate submission to

* James Livingston, of New York parentage, was born March 27, 1747, in Canada, where his father had settled. The son returned to New York and served in the American army, where he attained the rank of Colonel. When this letter was written he was a member of the New York Provincial Congress and Chairman of the Committee of Safety. He died in Saratoga County, N. Y., Nov. 29, 1832. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. p. 747. — EDS.

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that power whose tyranny and barbarity all good men view with abhorrence. Merchants belonging to the State of New York have retired to Connecticut for the sake of commerce, and by this personal property the trade of your State hath been much encreased. Now Sir, when merchants of this State bring commodities into Connecticut on their own account, it is certainly just and right to permit such commodities intended for the use of our inhabitants to have a free passage thro' Connecticut.

This Committee have too good an opinion of the Legislature of Connecticut to suppose, that they had it in idea to cut off the communication between this State and the sea ports to the eastward of us in order to reduce the price of commodities in those ports. Their good sense would certainly teach them the inefficiency of such violent remedy, and their humanity would forbid them to employ it.

Besides this, the great exertions which you have made in the common cause forbids us to harbour such suspicions. We seek for the source of that embargo, in your own necessities and the avarice, rapacity and extortion of your neighbours, thro' the just resentment of which you have neglected that attention which would otherwise have been paid to this State. We shall therefore submit it to your Excellency, whether it would not be proper to suffer all such goods to pass thro' Connecticut into this State as shall appear, by a proper certificate from the Chairman of the Committee where the same have been purchased, to have been bought to the eastward of your State for the use of our inhabitants, as also such commodities as by merchants of this State have been imported into Connecticut for the use of our inhabitants. Such a general resolution we conceive to be entirely within the equity of your law, and would, we imagine, remove the uneasiness which our constituents now labor under.

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The general power given to Mr Canfield cannot effectuate these good purposes since he cannot on all occasions be a proper judge of our wants, or be able to determine whether the proprietor of goods does really stand in need of them for the use of his family.

The Committee, Sir, have not the least doubt but that you will on this, as you have done on every other occasion in which the general good of America hath been concerned, exert yourself to the utmost to promote that concord, unanimity, and good neighbourhood which is necessary not only for the States of Connecticut and New York, but also for the great cause in which they are so deeply engaged.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient and humble servant.

By Order. JAMES LIVINGSTON *Chairman.*

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 14th Janr, 1777. Comtee of Safety of N. York, *de* our Embargo, &c., recd 19th inst at noon.*

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* In a letter dated Middletown, Jan. 1, 1777, to which the foregoing letter is a reply, Governor Trumbull wrote: "As to the difficulties you labour under on account of the imbargo laid in this State, permits have been given on application to transport out of this State to your State; and every permition of that kind will be granted on proper application that can be consistant with the general service. John Canfield, of Sharon, Esqr, is impowered by the Commissary Genl of the army, and is furnished with a general permit. I will give him instructions to indulge transporting such quantities for family use in your State as shall appear needful, consistant with the interest of both States." By a resolve of the General Assembly passed in October, 1776, an embargo was laid on "the exportation out of this Colony, by land or water, without a permit from his Honor the Governor, of the following articles, to wit: wheat, rye, Indian corn, pork and salt, pease, beans, bread, and every kind of meal except necessary stores for vessels outward bound; likewise all kind of cloaths, linnen and woollen, fit and suitable for cloathing for the army, except such as shall be provided for and sent for the use of our army or navy; and also that an embargo be laid upon the exportation out of this Colony by water of the following articles, to wit: beef, live cattle, sheep, butter and cheese." In the following month this act was repealed, and in place of it another act was passed, empowering the Governor with the advice of the Council "to issue out and send forth his proclamation, thereby to prohibit and forbid the transportation or carrying out of this State, either by land or water, of any article or thing that his Honor the Governor and his Council shall think necessary and expedient for the time set and limited in and by such proclamation," providing that the proclamation shall not continue in force after the expiration of twenty days from the beginning of the next General Assembly, and with some other provisions designed to limit its operation and to render it effectual. At the same session resolves were passed adding to the articles on which an embargo was laid at the October session, on the exportation by land or water of

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PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

FISH KILL, Jan^{y} 15th, 1777.

SIR, — Your favour of the 3^{d} instant without signature was delivered me on the 12th instant on my way to this place; that of the 27th ult^{o} I had the honor to recieve yesterday. With pain I inform you I have no prospect of procuring any cannon from this State, and the few you mention to be at Salisbury will when we get them still leave us amazingly deficient. I shall, however, hope from your usual exertions to procure an additional number from your State. Those now at Salisbury I shall send for as soon as I am advised that they are ready, of which you will please to direct notice to be given me.

On my return to Albany I shall send Captain Winslow instruction for raising a company of carpenters, and a blank sent to your Honor to be filled up with the name of such person as you may think proper, should Cap^{t} Lester decline entering the service.

I am sorry Col^{o} Swift was disappointed in the money. The Convention of this State has lent me ten thousand pounds, out of which I will lend him a supply on my return to Albany, for which place I propose setting out to-morrow.

The Paymaster General has orders to adjust all accounts of the army in my absence, so that I imagine some neglect of the officers has been the occasion of the milage, &c., of Col^{o} Swift's regiment remaining unpaid.

"the following articles, *viz:* oats, wool, flax, bar iron, beef, fat cattle, sheep, swine, butter, or cheese," and also "all West India goods, *viz:* rum, sugar and molasses brought into this State, and also all New England rum." In October, 1777, an act was passed, granting permission, under specified conditions, for any person or persons who had purchased any goods, wares, etc., in any other State, "to transport such article, &c., through this State," and allowing the inhabitants of the State, under certain restrictions, "to transport out of this State by land or water so much of their produce, excepting sheep's wool and cloathing of every kind, as shall be sufficient to purchase a sufficient quantity of salt for the use of their families respectively, and that only." See Public Records of the State of Connecticut from Oct., 1776, to Feb., 1778, pp. 12, 63–65, 71, 414, 415. — EDS.

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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My feelings on the repeated success of our army in Jersey are better conceived by your own than they can be described by me. The cloud which so darkly impended over us seems dispelling, and I trust with the divine assistance that every worthy American will still enjoy the fruit of his industry in peace, and with that rest which arises from an unfeigned gratitude to the omnipotent Governor of the Universe.

Please to accept my best wishes for your health & happiness.

I am, Sir, most sincerely,
Your most obed^{t}, hble. serv^{t}.
PH: SCHUYLER.

Hon^{ble} Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO PHILIP SCHUYLER.

LEBANON, Jan^{y} 22nd, 1777.

SIR, — It gives me concern to learn by your favor of the 15th instant that you have no prospect of procuring [any cannon] in your State. The few we have at Salisbury are now boring out. The overseers of the foundery have my orders by the return of your express to advise you when they will be ready, and deliver them to your order. The furnace is blown out. We shall put her in blast as soon as possible, and advise you from time to time how we succeed.

Since my last I have seen Cap^{t} Winslow, who consents to undertake in case Cap^{t} Lester refuses.

I am glad to find it is in your power to furnish Col^{o} Swift with money to raise his regiment. I have advised him of it, and expect he will soon apply to you. The service has and daily suffers much for the want of the money. His regiment when raised may serve as a reinforcement to the garrison at Ticonderoga, for the situation of which I am extremely anxious, and the more

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on account of the dissensions that have taken place, and proceeded to such an alarming degree of outrage and disorders amongst the troops now there, of which, I presume, you are better informed than I am, and doubt not but you will do the justice which the nature of the cause and the country requires.

I most sincerely return your congratulations upon the late happy success of our arms in New Jersey and the agreeable prospects thereby opening upon us, and heartily join in your wish that the event may be happy to every honest American, and that praise and glory may be given to the omnipotent Ruler of the Universe for every mercy we experience; sentiments of gratitude to the Author and Giver of every good are the proper fruits, reasonable fruits of prosperity, as a fiducial trust and hope in his justice, his goodness, and righteous government constitute our best support and consolation in adversity.

I will not in this forget to assure you that I am, Sir, with great truth and sincerity,

Your most obedient and most humble servant.

J. T——L.

Gen^{l} SCHUYLER.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO COMMITTEE OF SAFETY FOR NEW YORK.

LEBANON, January 22^{d}, 1777.

GENTLEMEN, — Your favour of the 14th instant by express came to hand the 19th, and I fully concur with you in opinion that it is within the equity of our act that goods purchased in the Eastern States, or imported by your merchants into this State for the use of your inhabitants should be suffered to pass thro this State without any unnecessary impediment.

The Legislature of this State had certainly no design to add to the distresses or injure any of their neighbours by their imbargo; they had undoubted intelligence that

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many persons of property unfriendly to these States, in this, in yours, and in other neighbouring States were privately attempting to ingross provisions and cloathing in this State, with intent to conceal the same, to run it to the enemy and thereby distress our army and embarrass & if possible defeat our measures; to this purpose the most extravagant prices were offered and given, & the currencies thereby affected. To prevent these evils the Assembly laid their imbargo & authorized the Governor & Comittee of Safety to impress & seize any such articles thus ingrossed for the use of the army. The general good of the united States was their object, in compassing w^e^ they wished as much as possible to avoid the injury of any of them. Powers were therefore vested in the Gov^r^ to permit the exportation of any of the articles enumerated. Permits have been and will be granted for the exportation of these articles to the subjects of the neighbouring States, where it appears they are intended for the use of the friendly inhabitants & there is no design to play upon our currencies. In the particular cases you have mentioned, the Comittee of Pay Table at Hartford, or either of them, Elisha Chauncey & James Wadsworth, Jun., Esq^rs^, at Durham, the Hon^ble^ Jabez Hamlin, Esq^r^, at Middletown, and Jonathan Fitch, Esq^r^, at New Haven, are impowered to give permits for exportation to any person from your State applying & producing a certificate as you propose; if this provision is not thought sufficiently to remove the inconvenience persons will be vested with like powers in any other place you shall think necessary.

I am, &c.

Indorsed: Lre. to the Com^tee^ of Safety for the State of New York, *de* Imbargo, sent Jany. 23, & return^d^ Express. Copy.

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PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, Jan^{y} 23^{d}, 1777.

SIR, — On Monday I returned from Fishkill, and on my way up I wrote to Col^{o} Swift to call or send for the money to pay the bounty of his regiment, and requested him to forward on his troops with all expedition. Permit me to intreat you in the most earnest manner to expedite a body of troops to Ticonderoga, which I have many reasons to believe will be attacked in less than three weeks, and unless the garrison is reinforced will certainly be lost.

Great discontents prevail in every part of this State at a law which is said to be past in Connecticut to prevent the exportation of a variety of articles, without a supply of which the distresses the people in this State already labour under will be greatly encreased. They consider such a law under the present situation of this State as one of the greatest misfortunes that could befal them, especially as it gives the enemies to America so fair an opportunity to create suspicions and sow dissension, nor are they idle on the occasion.

Pray be so good as to favor me with a copy of the law, if any such exists, that if its contents should have been misrepresented, I may quiet the minds of the people.†

I am, Sir, with great esteem,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

PH : SCHUYLER.

Hon^{ble} JONTH TRUMBULL, Esq^{r}, &c.

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* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

† See *ante*, pp. 10, 11, note. — EDS.

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PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, 27th Janr, 1777.

SIR, — In a line Colo Steward wrote me from Salisbury on his way to the eastward he informed me that he found eighty-two pieces of cannon at Salisbury. As that number greatly exceeds what you mentioned to me, I suppose you had not then a return of the whole. Even more than these will be wanted to the northward, I must therefore intreat your Honor to give orders that they may be finished off with all dispatch and delivered for this department.

Colo Swift has recieved ten thousand dollars. I wish his or any other regiment, or even parts of regiments, to be sent up without delay; for I firmly believe unless more troops arrive at Ticonderoga by the time Lake Champlain is passable on ice, that we shall lose that important pass. I wish you to second the applications I have made for troops to the Massachusetts and New Hampshire States, — not one man from the latter is yet arrived at Ticonderoga.

I am, Sir, with great respect & esteem,
Your most obedient, humble servant.

PH: SCHUYLER.

Honble JONTH TRUMBULL, Esqr, &c.

STEPHEN HOPKINS† TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PROVIDENCE, January 28th, 1777.

SIR, — Immediately upon report being made of the proceedings of the Committee of the four New-England

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* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

† Stephen Hopkins, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and, from early manhood almost to his death, a conspicuous figure in public life in Rhode Island, was born in Scituate, R. I., March 7, 1707, and died in Providence, July 13, 1785. He was a zealous advocate of the rights of the Colonies, and a man of extensive knowledge and great energy. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. p. 259. — EDS.

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States our General Assembly approved and accepted the same, and passed Acts necessary for carrying their resolutions into execution.*

The Council of War, in pursuance of the resolve of said Committee to establish couriers, employed Messrs Peter and Benjamin Mumford who ride weekly alternately from this town to Exeter in New-Hampshire; they have rode since the third of January current, and after each had performed his rout, the Council agreed with them to continue riding for three months for the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Pounds for both their services; from their known fidelity I make no doubt but the channel of comunication to and from Exeter will be very regular.

I am obliged to you for your very agreeable intelligence from his Excellency Gen^{l} Washington, & from Gen^{l} Schuyler; it gives me the greatest pleasure to find our affairs wear so pleasing an aspect.

German steel is not to be had here. There is a manufactory of steel set up in this State; the steel produced answers extremely well for all sorts of edge-tools, and is made use of by the smiths here, who very much approve the same; of that sort you could be supplied with the quantity wanted.

The thirteen ships who came down the Sound the 26th current arrived at Newport yesterday, and are supposed to be the wood vessels from Long-Island with their convoy; they drove on shore at Point Judith a sloop laden with salt: an armed schooner and a number of barges from the harbor of Newport attacked her, and it is most likely will destroy her.

The enemy are erecting a fort or battery upon Rhode-

* The Committee of the four New England States met at Providence, and sat from Dec. 25, 1776, to Jan. 3, 1777. The record of their proceedings is printed in the Appendix to the Public Records of Connecticut from Oct., 1776, to Feb., 1778, pp. 585-599. The votes of the Rhode Island Assembly are printed in Rhode Island Records, vol. viii. pp. 85-109. — Eds.

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Island near Fog-land Ferry, and also one upon the heights at the north part of s^d^ Island opposite to Bristol-Ferry.

Some very valuable prizes have arrived within the State of Massachusetts-Bay the week last past. That State is taking the most effectual methods to complete their quota of the Continental troops assigned them, by ordering each town to furnish the number alloted them by the General Court in a limited time.

With respect to the enemy on Rhode-Island I cannot say anything with certainty, the reports are various; but not any material movement, saving their fortifying, hath come to my knowlege.

I am Sir, in behalf of the Council,
Your Hon^r^ most obed^t^ & hb. ser^t^.
STEP. HOPKINS, *Chair^n^*.

Hon'ble Gov^r^ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 28^th^ January, 1777. Chairman Hopkins, answer to mine; rec^d^ 30^th^ inst. Ans^d^ 3^d^ Feb^y^, 1777.

PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, Jan^y^ 31^st^, 1777.

SIR, — M^r^ Kirkland, our missionary among the Six Nations,† arrived here this day from the westward with several Indian sachems. From the information he and they bring, as well as from many corroborating accounts, it is past a doubt that General Carlton intends to attack Ticonderoga as soon as the lake is passable over the ice. It is therefore incumbent on you to send all the new levies raised in your State instantly to Ticonderoga, by the shortest route, and with the greatest dispatch possible.

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* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

† Rev. Samuel Kirkland, born in Norwich, Conn., Dec. 1, 1744, died at Clinton, N. Y., Feb. 28, 1808, was the father of Rev. John T. Kirkland, D.D., President of Harvard College, 1810–1828. — EDS.

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I confidently hope that the most active measures will be adopted by your State to reinforce the garrison at Ticonderoga, and to accelerate the march of the troops intended for that service, as a moment's delay may be productive of the loss of that important fortress, — perhaps after the most strenuous exertions they may still arrive too late. Pray advise me immediately by express what number of men I may expect from your State, and when, and what route they will take, that I may give the orders necessary on the occasion.

I am, Sir, with great respect & esteem,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

PH: SCHUYLER.

The Hon^ble JON^TH TRUMBULL, Esq^r, &c.

PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, Feb^y 6^th, 1777.

SIR, — Two days ago I had the pleasure to recieve your favor of the 22^nd ult^o.

I enclose you a warrant for Cap^t Winslow, and one to be filled up to such other person as your Honor may judge proper to be employed in the service. Col^o Swift has already recieved ten thousand dollars in part of the bounty money for his regiment. I have no hopes that his men will be in time for the winter relief. By a letter just recieved from Col^o Wayne I find that after the 8^th of this month the garrison at Ticonderoga will consist of no more than five hundred & eighty-four rank and file of the Massachusetts militia. Burrell's mostly went off on the day their enlistment expired.

I was not officially informed of any disturbance having taken place at Ticonderoga untill after my return from Fishkill, when I found a letter from Maj^r Whiting com-

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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plaining of the outrage he and others had sustained, on which I immediately ordered Lieu^{t} Col^{o} Craige under arrest, and he is now here and will be tried as soon as the evidence arrive from the Massachusetts. It is much to be lamented that such unbecoming jealousy prevails between the men of corps from different States. It is more so that it infects gentlemen who from their situation in life ought to be far above it. I feel so much chagrin on this account that I most sincerely wish to quit a public life & retire to enjoy the calm comforts of a domestic one.

M^{r} Kirkland, with six Oneida Indians, is on his way to Boston. After seeing that place they propose passing thro' Connecticut and this State to pay a visit to General Washington. It is of much importance that some attention should be paid these people: from your Honor I am sure they will recieve it.

I am, Sir, with unfeigned esteem & regard,
Your most obedient, hble. servant.

PH: SCHUYLER.

The Hon^{ble} JONTH TRUMBULL, &c.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO PHILIP SCHUYLER.

LEBANON, 11th Feb^{y}, 1777.

SIR, — I have recieved your favors of the 23^{d}, 27th, & 31st of January, am rejoiced to find Col^{o} Swift has recieved money to enable him to fill up his regiment, which has been delayed principally for want of it, but am unable to inform how far he has succeeded, but shall not omit anything in my power to promote the filling up our battalions with all possible expedition. That is the object to be attended with utmost diligence. The employment of militia is both difficult and expensive. The officers of the several battalions have recieved the additional bounty

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given by this State. We have now so many men called out of this State for a short service in Rhode Island and to the westward that I dare not encourage giving support to the garrison at Ticonderoga, be sure not from militia, and I fear not from the new levies. Have urged the States of Massachusetts and New Hampshire to forward men to that quarter, representing the danger there in the strongest light. Hope they have sent numbers that way. As to the embargo laid by this State which gives so much uneasiness in yours, am sorry that a measure so well intended and which we think has had a very salutary effect already, and much greater may be expected, should occasion the least jealousy that it was designed against the State of New York, with whom we wish to cultivate the utmost harmony and friendship. The occasion was this: we found an inclination prevailing among all ranks in this and the neighbouring States daily to raise the prices of every necessary and convenience of life, tending to the ruin and destruction of the country & army. This State producing many of those articles and notwithstanding their being reduced to a reasonable price by a law of this State, yet unless an embargo followed people from the neighbouring States not subject to our law, by advanced prices, would take out our whole produce, and send a great part of them out of the country, and it would have been impossible for the commissary to have supplied the army, especially with pork and beef; and all the West India goods, rum, sugar, &c., would soon have been carried out of this State, or raised the price to that degree which would have been productive of the greatest mischiefs here. You will easily see the force of these reasons, and not only this but every other State will derive special advantages by it, as the embargo law saves permits to be given by the Governor. It only gives your purchasers a little trouble to come to the Governor for permit, at the same time they save at least 50 p^{r} cent in

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the price. When your people see the reason of the law and benefits arising by it, am persuaded, instead of creating jealousies or giving disgust, it will give the greatest satisfaction. But this embargo prevents not any articles brought into this State by your merchants, or whatever is purchased in the other States, from carrying of it through this, and least any such construction should be made, there is care taken to give them a free passage, of which I have advised your Convention by letter. I have enclosed printed copies of our act for regulating prices and the embargo. We are sorry we cannot supply you with any more cannon. We have already granted all the cannon that can be spared from our foundery at Salisbury.

Cap^{t} Winslow comes with design to confer and agree on the subject of his and Cap^{t} Lester's undertaking the carpenter's business at the northward. He will mention the tools he supposes necessary that were left the last year.

I am, with great truth and regard, Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant.
JONTH TRUMBULL.

PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, Feb^{y} 17th, 1777.

SIR, — Captain Winslow delivered me your favor of the 11th instant, enclosing the act of your State to regulate the prices of commodities therein. I cannot see that it contains any thing that the inhabitants of this State can, with reason, complain of. The clamours are, however, loud against the embargo, and I fear the consequences will be more fatal to cause in general than the evils intended to be cured thereby. I cannot help say-

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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ing but that I am of opinion with every body here, who think that before an embargo which might so deeply affect other States was laid, those States ought to be consulted on the occasion, especially in our present situation of affairs. Indeed, I cannot see what advantage it is to be permitted a free passage through your State with goods purchased in any of y^e^ other States where like laws prevail and the like embargo is laid, and indeed it is said that committees from the four New England States met to agree upon the law & embargo.

I had just written you on the subject of the carpenters when Cap^t^ Winslow arrived and was greatly surprised to be informed by him that he could not procure ship carpenters under nine shillings a day besides their provision and rum; he, however, offered to raise them at eight shillings, which, as it is one third of a dollar more than the very high wages we gave last year, I have refused to give, & shall try to procure men in this State.

Two people are arrived at Ticonderoga from Canada, one an officer in our service; he relates that a considerable body of Indians were collected at Chamblee, that he saw two parties of about an hundred each about half way between Ticonderoga and S^t^ Johns. They are not yet come to town.

I am, with great esteem & respect, Sir,

Your most obedient, hble. servant,

PH : SCHUYLER.

P. S. Please to forward the enclosed by the first safe conveyance.

Hon^ble^ JON^TH^ TRUMBULL, Esq^r^, &c., &c.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO PHILIP SCHUYLER.

LEBANON, Feb^{y} 19th, 1777.

SIR, — Col^{o} Stewart, your agent, has sent on from Providence a number of cannon under the care of M^{r} Benj^{a} Bartlett as far as Windham near me, where his teams are discharged, and requests me to supply said Bartlett with necessary monies, and ordered him a provision of new teams, &c.

I have in compliance with Col^{o} Stewart's request given the necessary directions for teams, &c., to recieve and carry on his loads as far as Canaan in this State, and furnished him necessary cash for his & teams expences, and will take care that the teamsters be paid so far, of which shall give you an account.

I have wrote Samuel Forbes, Esq^{r}, of Canaan, a gentleman I may confide in, to recieve the loads there, and furnish a change of teams, and give him every necessary assistance, and to agree on the most reasonable terms he can for the expence and pay of the teams from thence to Albany, and directed him to draw on you for the same; which draught I doubt not will meet with your acceptance.

I am, Sir, with great respect & esteem,

Your most obedient and most hble. servant.

JONTH TRUMBULL.

P. S. Least possibly Cap^{t} Forbes should be absent, have directed in such case to Tarbald Whitney, Esq^{r}, of said Canaan.

To the Hon^{ble} Maj^{r} Gen^{l} SCHUYLER.

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ROGER SHERMAN* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To The Honorable Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor of the State of Connecticut at Lebanon. P^r Favour of Doct^r Jackson.

PHILADELPHIA, March 4th, 1777.

HONORED SIR, — The Congress adjourned from Baltimore last Thursday to meet in this city yesterday, but a sufficient number of members did not come in to proceed to business. It was found very inconvenient to set at so great a distance from the seat of war, especially at a time when a new army is forming. Orders have been lately issued to reinforce the army in New Jersy by calling in all the new recruits and the neighbouring militia; the reason given in the resolution is "The Congress being earnestly desirous to strengthen the army under General Washington's immediate command, so as to enable him not only to curb the enemy & prevent their ravaging the country & obtaining any supplies of provision or forage, but by the Divine blessing totally to subdue them before they can be reinforced." It appears to me that a vigorous exertion at this time might be attended with very happy consequences, if not totally put an end to the war, for by the best accounts the enemy are in great want of many necessaries, and much dispirited; and tis thought if they were closely pursued with superior or equal numbers they would be obliged to submit. Congress never gave any orders at any time not to

* Roger Sherman, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and a member of the Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States, was born in Newton, Mass., April 19, 1721, and died in New Haven, Conn., July 23, 1793. He was a man of great natural ability, who rose to distinction by his own exertions, and filled with honor to himself and usefulness to the public many important offices, both before and after the Revolution. For many years he was one of the Delegates to Congress, as well as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. v. pp. 501, 502. — EDS.

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risque a general battel, as was reported last fall, but always left that matter to the discretion of the commanding officers. Congress has considered the resolutions of the Committees of the four New England States, approves of the measures for the defence of Rhode Island, and those recommended for the support of their paper currencies, but do not think it advisable to issue bills on interest. I think that would have no good effect, it might interfere with the continental loans, & would in my opinion burthen the particular States with a useless expence. The evils occasioned by the fluctuating and exorbitant prices of things is very sensibly felt here. Congress has referred the considera[tion] of the doings of the New England governments as to fixing the prices of articles, to the consideration of the other States, recommending to them to appoint commissioners to meet for that purpose & to adopt some plan to remedy the evils aforesaid. The Middle States from New York to Virginia inclusive are to meet the third Tuesday in this month. Congress has agreed to allow 6 p^{r} cent p^{r} annum on the moneies borrowed or to be borrowed on loan office certificates, being informed from Massachusetts and Philadelphia that money could not be obtained on a lower interest, moneyed men being unwilling to lower their incomes when the prices of all necessaries are greatly increased. The best way to preserve the credit of the currency & render the price of articles stable is to raise the supplies for carrying on the war by taxes as far as possible, & the rest by loans. It seems to be the present opinion of the Congress that there be no further emission of bills than what is already ordered, if it can possibly be avoided, and that the most effectual measures be taken to support the credit of those already emited. Accordingly a tax is recommended to the several States, and as the rule to determine the quotas is not yet established by the legislatures of the several States (which is to be done

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by the Confederation) each State is called upon to raise as large a sum as circumstances will admit, with an engagement to allow interest at 6 p^{r} cent for what any State may raise more than its just quota of the whole sum that shall be raised.

I suppose the expences of the current year will not be less than twenty million dollars, but perhaps more, unless the enemy's army should be subdued before they can be reinforced or a diversion given to the British arms by a war with France. I wish that I could furnish your Hon^{r} with printed copies of the journals of Congress to this time; but notwithstanding the utmost endeavours of Congress to have them printed here, they have by one excuse or other been delayed, sometimes the printers complain of the want of paper, at other times their workmen are obliged to go with the militia into the field. Orders have lately been given to the Committee to agree with some printer who will perform the work.

Your Hon^{r} has doubtless been informed of the promotions lately made of general officers in the army; previous to the choice the Congress resolved, "That in the appointment of general officers due regard shall be had to the line of succession, personal merit, and the number of troops raised or to be raised by the several States." We mentioned Brigadiers Wooster and Arnold as candidates for Major Generals on the two first principles, & Brigadier Wadsworth and Col^{o} Huntington, who were both recommended by General Washington, as fit persons for Brigadiers; but the last principle prevailed to pass them all by — viz, That Connecticut had more general officers than in proportion to the number of troops furnished by that State.

By a letter from M^{r} Dean dated Oct^{r} 25th, no authenticated account of these States having declared themselves independent had been received by him, so that

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nothing material had been transacted by him, except some contracts for goods. We have accounts in the newspapers that Doct^r^ Franklin arrived in France the 7th of December last, but Congress has not received any letter from him since his arrival. By the best accounts from France & Spain they are disposed to favour our cause.

I wish to know your Hon^rs^ opinion what would be most agreable to our State as to providing for the sick in the army, whether to have it done by Congress or each State to provide for their own troops, & whether Doct^r^ Turner would not be a suitable person to be recommended as Director of a Hospital on the east side of Hudson's River, or where ever else the N. E. troops may be stationed, or whether any other person in either of the N. E. States would be more suitable or acceptable for such an appointment. We were honored with the receipt of one of your Honor's letters at Baltimore, but my papers not being here I cant refer to the date, wherein your Hon^r^ mentions that it will be most agreable to the other gentlemen delegates for two of them to come together. I think it would be well to have a fuller representation at this time, and as but two, & part of the time but one has attended for a considerable time past, if four should attend for some time, the expence would not be more than if three had attended the whole time.

Doct^r^ Jackson, one of the managers of the lottery of the United States, by whom I expect to send this, is on a journey through New England to dispose of the lottery tickets. He requested me to recommend to him suitable persons in Connecticut to receive a number of them for sale. I accordingly recommended Thaddeus Burr, Esq^r^, in Fairfield County, Sam^ll^ Bishop, Esq^r^, in New Have[n] & John Lawrence, Esq^r^, in Ha[rtford] and took the liberty to refer him to your Hon^r^ to ad[vise ?] him to suitable

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persons in the eastern counties. I me[ntioned ?] Doct^r Smith for Litchfield County.

I am, very respectfully, your
Hon^rs obedient, humble servant,
ROGER SHERMAN.

P. S. General Wolcott is well.

Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: March 4^th, 1777. M^r Roger Sherman. Came to hand the 21.

WILLIAM BRADFORD* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To The Hon'ble Jonathan Trumbull, Esquire, Governor of Connecticut, &^c. Lebanon. Favoured by M^r Kirkland.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND & PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

PROVIDENCE, March 7^th, 1777.

SIR, — We had great expectations that an effectual attempt would have been made upon the enemy at Rhode-Island, but the General having been disappointed in the Continental troops from the Massachusetts-Bay which he relied upon, hath rendered the prosecution of that enterprize impracticable at present. This to every man who hath the honor of New England at heart must be extremely mortifying, as every necessary preparation for the expedition was made, & nothing was wanting but a sufficient number of men to attack less than 4000 of the enemy's troops posted, as it were, in the very heart of New-England. So far at present from making offensive war we are apprehensive that we shall hardly be able to defend our own State; for the 1000 Continental troops,

* William Bradford, Deputy Governor of Rhode Island from Nov., 1775, to May, 1778, was a descendant from Governor Bradford of Plymouth; he was born in Plympton, Mass., Nov. 4, 1729, and died in Bristol, R. I., July 6, 1808. He studied medicine and afterward law, in which latter profession he attained eminence, and also took an active and prominent part in public affairs. See Drake's Dictionary of American Biography, p. 115; Arnold's History of Rhode Island, vol. ii. p. 567. — EDS.

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which by the recommendation of the four States were to have been stationed here, are now ordered to another quarter; New-Hampshire hath never supplied a single man, the Massachusetts have always been deficient above 300 men, and the time for which the greater part of their troops were to serve expires to-morrow, and of the remainder in a few days after; Col. Ely's regiment will march home the 15th instant and your other troops on the first of April; and we cannot learn as yet that provision is made or making to replace any part of them, so that the defence of the country will be left to the forces of this little State. A task to which we are unequal. Upon the first alarm our whole militia including the alarm list was called out and did duty near a month, and one third part of them at a time have been in the field ever since, and are to be continued. You must be sensible, Sir, that no State can possibly support such exertions for any length of time; not to mention the distresses brought upon many families by the heads of them being in the field, it is of the last importance that they should be relieved for the purposes of agriculture and the exercise of the necessary arts and trades for the comfortable subsistence of the people. We must therefore request you immediately to make provision to supply at least your quota of the troops agreed upon by the Committee.

At the request and in behalf of the General Assembly, I am, with great esteem and regard,

Your Honor's most obedt, humble servant,

WILLIAM BRADFORD.

Hon'ble Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Govr Bradford, 7th March, 1777, *de* Troops.

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THADDEUS BURR* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On publick service. To the Hon^{ll} Jonathan Trumbull Esq^{r} att Lebanon. P^{r} express.

FAIRFIELD, 8th March, 1777.

S^{r}, — We understand that General Silliman writes you by this conveyance, who has undoubtedly given you an accurate account of the situation that we have been in for some days past; that we have no occasion to repeat it. The steps he has taken for our defence at present are well approved of by the authority and Selectmen, and we hope your Honor and your Council of Safety will think proper to adopt them, or contrive some other way for our protection; otherwise, we do not see but we must quit the town for the enemy to ransack and possess themselves of many valuable and necessary articles for the support of the war, — such as provisions and flax, of which last article this town greatly abounds.

We are sensible that every seaport town in the State may think themselves intitled to the same protection. We wish they had it, tho we think our situation peculiar and demands a more perticular attention and present reliefs than some others.

We also inform your Honor that we are in want of powder, and think it necessary that we should have an order for five hundred weight of pistol powder, and five hundred weight of cannon to be placed in the town for use in our defence. Also (if to be had) for the use of the artillery, 12 port fires; 150 tubes filled; 50 cannisters of grape shot for 4 pounders. We earnestly intreat that your Honor would lay this before your Council

* Thaddeus Burr was one of the wealthiest and most influential citizens of Fairfield, and was among the principal sufferers when the town was burned by the British in 1779. He held many local offices, and was frequently sent as a delegate to the General Assembly. He died February 19, 1801, aged 65 years. See Miss Perry's Inscriptions in the Old Burying Ground of Fairfield, p. 38. — EDS.

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of Safety, and doubt not every prudent method will be taken for our protection.

We are, with due respect and esteem,
Your Honor's most ob^{t}, hum serv^{ts},
signed p order,
THAD. BURR, *Selectman.*

To Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Thad^{s} Burr, Esq^{r}, *de* attack on Fairfield. 8th March, 1777.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO PHILIP SCHUYLER.

LEBANON, 10th March, 1777.

SIR, — I have the favor of yours dated 17th ult^{o} p^{r} Cap^{t} Winslow, by which I observe you have dismissed the expectation of carpenters from this State. It is a matter much to be lamented that the insatiable desires of the people should run every thing to such extravagant rates as prevail at this day.

Since the receipt of your last I have the honor of a letter from President Hancock, enclosing the doings of Congress on the proceedings of the committee from the four New England States for the defence of Rhode Island, measure for preventing the depreciating the currency, and plan for regulating the price of labour, manufactures, &c., with resolutions of Congress wherein among other things they have referred to the consideration of the other States the matter of regulating prices, &c., and recommend to them adopting such expedients as they think most likely to remedy the evils arising from their present fluctuating & exorbitant state. Your people seem principally alarmed at the embargo act. You will readily perceive that without that the good effects expected from the Regulating Act might be easily frustrated, and its force in a great measure abated, if the people were under no restraint in carrying from among us the regulated

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articles. The ill effects of the embargo we hope to prevent by *itself* being under regulation, and subject to the Governor's permission in certain cases.

In a letter from his Excellency General Washington, recieved two days ago is the following paragraph: "Some time ago Gen^{l} Schuyler wrote to me and informed me that there were a great number of arms returned into stores in Albany, wanting repairs, &c." In consequence of the foregoing you will please, if the arms are not otherwise disposed of, to send me four hundred stands to the nearest place in this State to me that they can be sent by any return teams of this or Massachusetts State, of which I suppose there are numbers daily passing. You will be so good as to inform me whatever orders you give respecting them that I may take the further necessary measures.

Eleven sail of the enemy's ships have made their appearance off New London harbour, are now lying in Fisher's Island sound, have landed some troops on the island and pitched their tents. Their design is variously conjectured. Some think they intend securing to themselves the harbour of New London. I rather think they are in pursuit of fresh provisions and wood.

I am, &c.

J—— T——L.

Hon^{ble} Maj^{r} General Schuyler.

PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

Albany, March 16th, 1777.

Sir, — Your favor of the 10th March I have this moment received.

That our people are alarmed at the embargo act is not without reason; they severely, very severely, feel the

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — Eds.

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effects of it. Sugar is now at forty dollars p^{r} hundred here. But whence arises this exorbitant price? Evidently because it is cheaper for an inhabitant of this State to give that price than to ride perhaps two hundred miles to get a permit to purchase it in one of the eastern States. In the course of last winter M^{r} Kip & M^{r} Knickerbacker of Schactihook had purchased four of five sled loads of rum, sugar, salt, &c., in the Massachusetts for their own use and that of their neighbours who had jointly agreed to bear the expence. When they went to bring away those things they were not permitted, returned without, and then procured a recommendation from M^{r} Avery, on which they were permitted to carry off their effects. Judge, Sir, of the extra expence these people were put to. It is probable that if the Convention of this State had been applied to they would have concurred in the prices established by the eastern Legislatures on the enumerated articles, and the necessity of the embargo would have been superceded, and the resentment which the people in this State feel on the occasion (which cannot fail of being more or less detrimental to the general cause) would not have taken place. At all times it behoves every Legislature to act upon the broad principle of promoting the good of the whole. If the Legislatures of the four New England Colonies made that the basis of their common act, it is only to be lamented that experience has evinced the inefficacy of the measure.

The arms mentioned in the extract from General Washington's letter are still here, and still unrepaired. Col^{o} Baldwin who went down last fall had orders to raise a company of armourers, who were to have been here on the first of February at farthest. He has long since informed me that they were on the march, but I have not yet seen one, and I begin to apprehend they will not come. Although I am very confident that more arms

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will be wanted in this department than we have in store, yet, as it is my duty to obey his Excellency's orders, I have directed the store-keeper to put up one hundred stand, and to forward them to you without delay.

I am, Sir, with great esteem,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

PH: SCHUYLER.

Hon^ble JON^TH TRUMBULL, Esq^r, &c.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To The Hon^ble Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, at Lebanon. P^r M^r Brown.

PHILADELPHIA, March 21st, 1777.

SIR, — I was honored with your favour of the 10th instant by M^r Brown. Nothing very material has occurred here since my last which your Hon^r had not received when M^r Brown came away. Letters have been received from D^r Franklin of the 8th & 13th of December last. He arrived the 6th of December, having had a passage of thirty days. The vessel he sailed in took two prizes on her passage which were carried into France, but as they cant be condemned there they will probably be ransomed. Accounts from France are that there is some probability of a war between France & England, but there is no certainty of that matter. General Green arrived here yesterday from head quarters, General Gates is also in this city, and plans are forming for the next campaign. I hope our army will soon be recruited so as to be able to subdue the enemy's. Enclosed is a copy of the resolutions of Congress on the doings of the New England convention. No opinion was given on what respected the additional bounty to the soldiers. M^r Hillegas remains yet at Baltimore. Your Hon^rs letter to him being on the public service Gen^l Wolcott and I thought advisable to open, not knowing but that it might contain some

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matter proper for the Treasury Board to transact and that might require dispatch. I shall take care to forward it by the first safe conveyance. I forgot to mention in my last the affair of the cannon which Congress requested the loan of; some gentlemen seemed much surprized at the prices of 70 & 80 pounds per ton, as some had been purchased & more engaged here at £40 this currency per ton. I understand the Salisbury cannon are not so heavy as these; therefore the difference of price is not so great as was imagined. When it was proposed to borrow them, we represented that they were wanted for the defence of the State of Connecticut, and if lent others must be immediately provided in their stead, therefore we conceived Congress would not think such a requisition reasonable, but lest giving so high a price should make a bad precedent & raise the price here, it was resolved to apply to borrow them. We gave as a reason why they could not be afforded cheaper, that the furnace was rebuilt & put in blast at a great expence for the purpose of casting some cannon for the use of that State, the scarcity of wood, the high price of coal & the distance it was carted, &c.

Your Honor mentions that Col° Dyer and Col° Williams chuse to come to Congress together, which will require some agreement. I have not heard Gen. Wolcott mention any thing about returning home soon. I was last from home, but am willing to be relieved at any time when it may best suit the other gentlemen to attend.

I am, with great truth & regard,

Your Honor's obedient, humble servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

The Hon^ble^ Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: R. Sherman, Esq^r^; Phil^a^, March 21^st^, 1777. *De* D^r^ Franklin's arriv^l^, cannon at Salisbury, return^s^ home, &c. — Rec^d^ 30^th^.

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NICHOLAS COOKE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(*On Public Service*) *To the Honorable Jonathan Trumbull, Esq., Governor of the State of Connecticut at Lebanon. Nich. Cooke.*

PROVIDENCE, April 8, 1777.

SIR, — The defenceless state of this Government constrains me to renew my applications to you, for your quota of the army necessary to keep the enemy from penetrating the country this way.

The troops upon Rhode-Island consist of about 4000 men. We have in this State 450 militia from Connecticut, and 330 from Massachusetts, the time of the latter being up on the 10th instant. The two Continental battalions raising here are, by absolute order from General Washington, to march this day to the westward, or to enter the hospital for inoculation. All the men in that part of the State yet in our possession, fit for duty, do not exceed 7000, who having been harassed and fatigued with severe and long duty upon the shores, and the season in which to prevent a famine it is necessary to apply to husbandry being arrived, make it impossible to assemble a sufficient force, without the neighbouring States furnishing their proportions. I am therefore at the request of the Council of War to importune you in the most urgent manner immediately to send us the stipulated quota of Connecticut troops.

I am, with great esteem,
Your Honor's most obed^{t} and most humble ser^{t}.

NICH^{s} COOKE.

Hon. Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Gov^{r} Cook, *de* our quota stipulated. Troops at Rhode Island, 4,000. In that State 7,000. Rec^{d} 9th instant.

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* Nicholas Cooke, born Feb. 8, 1717, died Sept. 14, 1782, was Deputy Governor of Rhode Island from May to Oct., 1775, and Governor from the latter date to May, 1778. See Appleton's Dictionary of American Biography, vol. i. p. 721. — EDS.

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JOSEPH SPENCER* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Publick Service. Hoñble Governor Trumbull at Lebanon, Connecticut. ℔ post.

PROVIDENCE, 15th April, 1777.

SIR, — I conclude your Honour has doubtless heard of the fleet which sailed last Wednesday from the harbour of Newport, consisting of thirty three sail of square rigg[d] vessels and three tenders; they stood for the westward, but on Saturday last, lay between Tower Hill and Long Island; — we have known for some time, that those ships were haul[d] off, and have daily expected their sailing, and also that a large proportion of the troops at Rhode Island would have gone off with those ships; but we find ourselves much mistaken in that. There have since the sailing of the ships, seven of the inhabitants of Newport made their escape, and they all agree that no troops embarked in the fleet, but only a few artillery men and some late promoted officers: these refugees inform that the officers at Newport are making every preparation for gardening, &c., that it is generally concluded at Newport, that the enemy design to keep their possession at that place: and I think the troops not going with the above fleet is a circumstance that affords great reason for that opinion. Several of those people also tell us that the enemy will doubtless make some excursions upon the main soon to plunder; and I think we have great reason to expect it, as our army here is so extremely weak; not more than 14 hundred by the returns at the extent, and they necessarily very much scattered, and at great distance, one part from another: there is not a single man

* Joseph Spencer was born in East Haddam, Conn., in 1714, and died there Jan. 13, 1789. At the outbreak of the War of the Revolution he was appointed by Congress one of the eight brigadier-generals, and the next year was made a major-general. He served in the expedition against Rhode Island, but having been censured on account of its failure he resigned from the army in 1778. Subsequently he was a member of Congress, and for many years a member of the Council of Connecticut. See Drake's Dictionary of American Biography, p. 855; Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. v. pp. 628, 629. — EDS.

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here from the Massachusetts; from Connecticut no more than four hundred and thirty six.

The lower House of this State, the lower House of the Assembly of this State, before this would have determined to have kept up in this army, from this State, none but those they call fifteen months men, the whole of which does not amount to five hundred. They complain that the neighbouring States cruelly neglect them; and so it seems would suffer themselves to be destroyed, that they might charge their destruction to the negligence of their neighbours.

I must speak in praise of the conduct of the Governor and Council of War here, I think they have done as much as could be expected of them, to keep up their proportion of troops, all things considered.

Knowing the extraordinary exertions of the State of Connecticut, from time to time, in sending troops to every part for defence of the United States, and hearing that of late a number of the militia are ordered to the westward from thence; it is with great reluctance, (and as I apprehend from absolute necessity) that I trouble your Hon^{r} with this disagreable detail: this part of the country is beyond dispute in great danger at least of being in part laid waste; and I own that I feel for my own character. I am loth to have the name of a command here, for no other purpose than to bear the blame of any disaster that may happen in this part of the country: I suppose by the custom of the world, in case the country should be laid waste in these parts meerly for want of men, the destruction would be charged to my account chiefly, while at the same time I am very sure the deficiency of the army has been occasioned by no neglect in me.

I am, Sir, with due respect,

Y^{r} Hon^{rs} most obed^{t}, humble serv^{t}.

Hoñble Gov^{r} TRUMBULL. JO^{s} SPENCER.

Indorsed: 15th April, 1777. Maj^{r} Gen^{l} Spencer, *de* Ships gone from N. Port. Troops. Fears. Recd. 16th, P. M.

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JOHN PIERCE, JR.,* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR.†

(On the Public Service) To Jonathan Trumbull, Junr, Esq. Pay Master General for the Northern Department, now at Lebanon.

ALBANY, April 18, 1777.

DEAR SIR, — Yesterday I received yours of 31 ult. I wait with some impatience to know Mr Winslow's and my own doom; he has not yet returned; have received several letters from him he will be here as soon as the lakes are passable, which will be very soon. General Gates arived here yesterday; his Aid de Camps say *commander in Chief* in the *N. Department.* I waited on him this morning; he thinks matters have been carried on *slow;* the money is all gone, and what is the consequence? Our ammunition & artillery are here yet, and our stores are empty. Where is Mr Trumbull? 'he will be here, Sir, when the money arives, sooner than that, he wrote me, he thought was unnecessary' That is true, he answered; but the money will be here very soon, and do you write Mr Trumbull *that I desire* he would come here as quick as *possible.* I could therefore wish you here before the General goes for Ty—. If he *commands,* 'twill be of importance that there should be proper orders left at this place, which never can be done so well without your presence. The first payment to the new raised army will be difficult and require much attention and

* John Pierce, Jr., was a Deputy Paymaster in the army, under Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., Paymaster-General for the Northern Department. He died in New York City in July, 1788. See Drake's Dictionary of American Biography, p. 718. — EDS.

† Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., second son of the War Governor, was born in Lebanon, Conn., March 26, 1740, and graduated at Harvard College with high rank in 1759. At the breaking out of the War of the Revolution he was appointed Paymaster-General of the Northern Department. In April, 1781, he was made private secretary to General Washington. In 1790 he was chosen a Representative in Congress, and in the following year he became Speaker of the House, which office he filled until 1794, when he was elected to the United States Senate. In 1796 he was chosen Lieutenant-Governor of the State, and in 1798 Governor, holding that office by annual election until his death, Aug. 7, 1809. See Hine's Early Lebanon, pp. 93–95. — EDS.

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care. We have a book contain[s] almost a quire of General Orders about it.

Lake Champlain is open. Lake George is not. It is surprizing the troops do not come in faster. Commodore Wynkoop writes, that a number of boats with Canadians & Regulars were seen somewhere near Gylleland's Creek; that our whole force is not more than fourteen hundred; he very much fears that Ty. will be lost before the garrison get in. (I hope these, will prove like the hay boat of last November.)

Thro' this county we have had a conspiracy, — three regiments were in part offisered and many of these were recruiting, their design was, (for which purpose they took an oath) to be prepared and ready when How came up the river, then desolate the country, and join him from all parts. They thought that a sudden defection of so large a number, who would be magnified by report, would strike a damp to the country & prevent them coming in to the assistance of our army, as well as give spirit to and recruit the enemy; but some of them, whose hearts God had toutched, revealed the matter just when it was ripe for detection; and we have one Brig[d] Gen., a Colo., & several Captains in custody, with about seventy others. The influence of bribery & fear have had this surprising effect around us, but a few very *vigorous* blows and impartial tryals will convince them, by releasing the innocent, of our justice; and condemning the guilty, of our spirit and resolution. We shall not want General Gates endeavor towards hanging the greater part.

Since I have been here, I have been kept pretty industrous; but the business has prospered in our hands. The prize money has been some trouble, the returns of our Court of Inquiry being extreemely incorrect. I wish you every happiness, and am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

JOHN PIERCE, JUN.

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My money has been gone about a month; since which I have borrowed considerable.

Indorsed by Gov. Trumbull: 18th April, 1777. Mr John Pierce to J. Trumbull, junr, Pay Master Genl, *de* Empty Chest, General Gates, Conspiracy, &c. Recd 1st May, 1777.

JOSEPH TRUMBULL* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

MORRISTOWN, 19th April, 1777.

HONRD SIR, — I arrived here last Tuesday evening, after a pretty good journey, the season considered, & without any material accident or adventure. I have the happiness of finding His Excellency Genl Washington perfectly recovered from his late illness, which was very severe, tho' not of long continuance. It filled every one about him who were suffered to know his indisposition, with the most fearfull apprehensions; his Lady is with him, as healthy & agreeable as formerly. I have not yet learned the geography of the country well eno' to undertake a description of our situation, nor do I know any more of our strength than before I left N. Engd. I can only say, I wish I could see some more men here about. Colo Butler & his party came in yesterday to the joy of all, I wish our men may be pushed on, as fast as possible; I would not fear to ensure you all the enemy off the continent again very soon, if Genl Washington had men. Every moment's delay endangers the loss of a golden opportunity which no future time can afford us. If anything can be done to forward the men on, no exertion should be wantg. We have daily skirmishes, &

* Joseph Trumbull was the Governor's eldest son, and was born in Lebanon March 11, 1737. In April, 1775, he was appointed by the Connecticut Assembly Commissary-General of the State; and by Congress shortly afterward the first Commissary-General of the American army. His health broke down under the strain of this difficult and important office, and he died at home, July 23, 1778. See Hine's Ancient Lebanon, pp. 93, 94. — EDS.

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ever favourable, except last Sunday when Gen^{l} Lincoln escaped narrowly, with his whole party, about 500, from the ill conduct of some of his out guards who were militia & run from their posts without even giving the alarm, & so left him to be surprised & surrounded. However tho' he quitted his post, & Gen^{l} Cornwallis breakfasted there, yet he return'd & dined at home, with a reinforcement, & still remains there. We have hourly prisoners & deserters who all agree that the enemy's troops are very sickly, have bad provisions, & in general discontented, & the forreigners universally disgusted; the reg^{t} of Waldeckers that came out about 700 strong, are reduced to about 300, & every man of them will come off when he has an opportunity — this & sickness are tho't Gen^{l} How's reasons for lying still. All are at a loss which way he designs to go. This week we supposed the matter certain, from a number of ships being in Delaware Bay, but they are gone again; whether they will go to Phil^{a} or up the North River I can't say, but wish for men to oppose & prevent their going either way. I really pity Gen^{l} Washington when I see how much he is chagrined at the loss of such an opportunity, a loss to him & his country which can't but affect him & every man who has feelings for his country & posterity. There are considerable numbers in from the southward, but short, very much short, of what ought to be here. Some few of our people who came on with Col^{o} Butler were not innoculated; they were innoculated last evening; this country is full of the small pox. An intire new regulation has taken place in the Hospital upon a liberal plan, which, if well executed, I believe will take away all former occasions of complaint. Doct^{r} Fogue & D^{r} Turner are provided for at 5 doll^{rs} each p day & 6 rations; the Director Gen^{ll}, D^{r} Shippen, Jun^{r}, has 6 doll^{rs} & 9 rations. I hear Congress are going thro' a general regulation of all the great Departments of the army, & expect mine in its

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turn will undergo the same. I wish it; it wants it as much as any of them all.

I beg my best respects to maṁa & all the family & friends, & am, Hon^rd Sir,

Your dutifull son,

JOS: TRUMBULL.

I have forwarded Bro^r Jack's letter to M^r Lovell,— iṁediately on my arrival here. I have not heard from Phil^a since my arrival. Gen^l Gates is gone to Ty. Gen^l Schuyler is at Phil^a.

Hon^o Gov^r TRUMBULL.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To The Honorable Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon.

PHILADELPHIA, April 23^d, 1777.

HONORED SIR, — We received your Hon^rs letter of the 16th instant by M^r Brown. Your letter to Congress was also received & read yesterday, & referred to the Committee for Foreign Affairs. Nothing very remarkable has occurred here since my last, nor any later advices received from France. The recruiting service makes but slow progress in this State, the battalions not half full; in Virginia about two thirds of their number are inlisted. In the Carolinas, I hear their numbers are near compleated, but many are prevented by the small pox from joyning the army. Congress was not disposed to censure the Eastern States for giving additional bounties, supposing them to be the best judges of the expediency of the measure. The Committees of the Middle States did nothing as to regulating prices, they being equally divided in opinion respecting the matter. The prices of almost all kinds of articles are very high here. The Commissary General arrived here yesterday, and a com-

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mittee is appointed to confer with him & consider what further regulations ought to be made in his department. The journals of Congress are not yet published further than to the first of last May. A new printer is employed to bring them up to this time from the tenth of May, 1775. I furnished your Hon^r^ with the journals from September to the last of December, 1775, last fall. I now send the proceedings from the first of January to the last of April, 1776; the printer will compleat the rest as fast as possible. I have sent several of the late papers, which contain some resolutions of Congress, and particularly the regulation of the Hospital.

Making cannon is an object that deserves attention, as several of the frigates are detained only for want of guns. Those made at Salisbury are allowed to be of the best kind, and tho' they are higher by the ton than those made here, yet I have heard it observed they are not dearer on the whole, being much lighter. I hope the two delegates your Hon^r^ mentions will attend Congress by the first of May, as I want to return home. I am sorry there is occasion to call the militia to joyn the army. I think it would be unnecessary if the men inlisted were collected together. What is recommended respecting Rhode-Island, it was hoped, would not detain the militia for a very long time after their assembling. I am glad to hear of the success of the Brigg Defence. I will take the first opportunity to transmit to your Hon^r^ copies of all petitions of the several States heretofore made to the King, that I can obtain. Congress has resolved to appoint three Commissioners to reside in or near Boston, with power to adjourn to any other part of New England, to superintend the building, fitting out, and manning the ships of war ordered to be built there, & to provide naval magazines, & generally to direct the naval affairs in New England subject to the orders of the Marine Committee. A recommendation passed yesterday to the several States to furnish Congress

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with their laws, and to send them to each of the other States that they may be acquainted with each other's laws; also to communicate any new discoveries they may make in the art of war or other useful arts. By a letter from General Heath to the Board of War it appears that the most of the powder made in the Massachusetts Bay is bad and not to be depended on, & that they have a large quantity of it. I hope the Inspectors of Powder in Connecticut will take sufficient care that what is manufactured there is good, as the safety of the State depends on its being good. The price of board is increased here about one third, & horse-keeping double. There must be a large quantity of paper money in circulation while the war lasts. I wish a spirited effort might soon be made to subdue the enemy's force now in the country. General Wolcott is in a good state of health; he saw your Hon^{rs} letter, and desired me to write to your Hon^{r} what was needful, but as we had nothing very important to write thought it unnecessary for both to subscribe the letter.

I am, with great esteem & regards,

Your Honor's obedient, humble servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

The Honorable Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 23^{d} April, 1777 Hon^{o} Roger Sherman, Esq, *de* recruiting service in Pensyl^{a}, Carolinas, Virginia. Middle States divided on affix^{e} prices. Journal, a 1st Jan^{y} to 1st May, 1776. Two delegates requested. Copies of petitions from the several States.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To The Honorable Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Governor of the State of Connecticut, at Hartford. P M^{r} Brown.

PHILADELPHIA, May 14th, 1777.

HONORED SIR, — Your letter to Congress was received and read, and then committed to the Board of War. I am sorry to hear that the militia are no better armed in

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this time of danger. I believe there are no Continental arms to spare at present; more are daily expected. If any are due to the State of Connecticut, it would be best to send a particular account of the number, and request Congress that they be replaced as soon as any shall arrive. Congress has lately been employed in regulating the several departments of the army, that the business may be properly conducted and frauds and abuse prevented. The Articles of Confederation have several times come under consideration, but not much progress made therein. Rhode Island is not represented, M^r^ Ellery's time expired last week & he has no information of being reappointed. Letters as late as the 15th of April received from our agent in Martineco inform that our trade receives all the protection that could be desired from the Gov^t^ of the French Islands, but no certain accounts whether a war will soon take place between France & Britain.

Your Hon^r^ has probably seen the late act of Parliament for sending the Americans to England & detaining them in prison without bail or mainprize till the first of Jan^y^, 1778. The best way to relieve our people who may fall into their hands is, by a vigorous exertion to get as many of theirs as possible into our custody, as nothing but the fear of retaliation will induce them to regard the laws of humanity.

The gentleman who gave information of Governor Franklin's misbehaviour, and the inattention of our Government to prevent it, seemed displeased that any part of the information was contradicted by your Hon^rs^ letter.* I

* Congress, on the 22d of April, 1777, "Resolved that Governor Trumbull be informed that Congress have received undoubted information that William Franklin, late Governor of the State of New Jersey, and now a prisoner in Connecticut, has since his removal to that State sedulously employed himself in dispersing among the inhabitants the protections of Lord Howe and General Howe, stiled the King's Commissioners for granting pardons, &c., and otherwise aided and abetted the enemies of the United States: And that he be requested forthwith to order the said William Franklin, Esquire, into close confinement, prohibiting to him the use of pen, ink, and paper, or the access of any person or persons but such as are properly licensed for that purpose by Governor Trumbull." (Journals of Congress from

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have no doubt but his information was good as to Gov^{r} Franklin's misconduct. As to our Government being informed of it, he says that he told Gen^{ll} Parsons of it, and that M^{r} Burr of Fairfield was also informed of it. M^{r} Duer is zealously engaged to suppress Tories. The Congress promoted Colonels Huntington and Read to the rank of Brigadiers General on the 12th instant, the first on General Washington's request. I wish for leave to return home for a short time at least; but it wont do to leave the State of Connecticut unrepresented. I hope other delegates will soon arrive.

I am, with great esteem [&] regard,
Your Hon^{rs} obedient, humble servant.
ROGER SHERMAN.

Hon^{ble} Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To The Honorable Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Governor of the State of Connecticut, at Hartford.

PHILADELPHIA, May 16th, 1777.

SIR, — The President detained the express 'till to day, waiting for the Board of War to report on your Hon^{rs} letter. The Board took it into consideration this morning, but did not think it necessary to make any report to Congress on the contents, as the resolution of Congress, passed last December, authorizing your Hon^{r} to retain two regiments for the defence of the State until further order, has not been superceded. Cap^{t} John Langdon has informed the Board of War that he had sent about 3000 arms to Connecticut to furnish the continental [forces?] raised in that State. All the residue of the arms that were in the hands of the agents in the Eastern States are ordered to

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Jan. 1, 1777, to Jan. 1, 1778, vol. iii. p. 151.) In accordance with this resolve, the Governor and Council of Safety of Connecticut ordered Franklin to be conveyed forthwith by the Sheriff of Hartford County under proper guard to Litchfield gaol, and there confined. (Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776, to Feb., 1778, p. 217.) — EDS.

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be sent to Springfield, where a laboratory is ordered to be erected, and the Board have agreed upon sending an order to the store keeper there to furnish as many more as are necessary for equipping the troops in Connecticut upon proper muster rolls being produced to him. Letters were this day received from France as late as the 25th of March, but no material news; they related chiefly to commerce. London papers were received mentioning the battles of Trenton and Princetown last winter, which were humiliating to the ministry; they applaud the conduct of our Generals. An extract of a letter from London mentions that the enemies forces are to be removed from Canada to joyn General Howe's army, but we ought not to give so much credit to it as to alter our plans for defence in the northern department.

I am, Sir, with great regard,

Your Honrs obedient, humble servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

P. S. I should think it advisable to represent to General Washington the necessity of having the battalions stationed in Connecticut. When the Board of War had the matter under consideration the resolution of Congress was not before them, but they supposed it was at General Washington's option to call for the troops when he might think proper. R. S.

The Honble Governor TRUMBULL.

HORATIO GATES* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

ALBANY, 21st May, 1777.

DEAR SIR, — I am sorry to acquaint your Excellency, that the army in this department is likely to be very much

* Horatio Gates was born in Maldon, Essex, England, in 1728, and at an early age entered the British army, serving in America, the West Indies, and Ireland. In 1769 he retired from the army, and returning to America married and settled in Virginia. On the

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distress'd for want of tents, and blankets; most of the Massachusetts and New Hampshire men are arrived at Ticonderoga without a provision of either. I am astonished at General Heath pushing so many men from Boston, so totally unprovided, — as if the necessary equipment for a soldier grew in the woods. The ordnance stores sent from Boston last February are not half arrived, owing to the carters leaving their loads at different stages by the way, as their villainy, laziness, or other reason suggested. I have in vain sent messengers every way to find the stores, but with the worst success; I must therefore beg the favour of your Excellency, to send a copy of this letter to the General Court at Boston, and entreat their aid, to supply the pressing and immediate wants of this army. M^r^ Chace, the Deputy Quarter Master General, who had the care of the stores ordered from Boston, has a list of the deficiences, sent him yesterday by express. Two thousand tents, an[d] ten thousand blankets are necessary to supply our wants. It is absolutely necessary that all carriages coming to the northern army with stores should come by way of Albany; as the roads are impracticable by any other route.

I am, Sir, Your Excellency's
Most obedient humble servant,
HORATIO GATES.

His Excellency Governour TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Gen^l^ Gates Letter, 21^st^ May, 1777, *de* Soldiers' Equipment.

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breaking out of the war he offered his services to Congress, and was made a Brigadier General and afterward Major General. Having superseded Schuyler in command of the northern army, he had the good fortune to receive the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga. Subsequently he was appointed President of the Board of War, and was implicated in the Conway Cabal to supplant Washington. Failing in this, he withdrew from active service; but in June, 1778, he was appointed to the command of the army in North Carolina, and two months later he was totally defeated in the battle of Camden. This substantially ended his military career. In 1790 he removed from Virginia to New York, where he died April 10, 1806. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. ii. pp. 614, 615; Dictionary of National Biography, Supplement, vol. ii. pp. 269–272. — EDS.

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ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To The Honorable Jonathan Trumbull Esq^r^, Governor of the State of Connecticut, at Lebanon.

PHILADELPHIA, May 26th, 1777.

HONORED SIR, — I was honored with your favour of the 18th instant, which I received on the 24th, after Congress adjourned. I have not seen M^r^ Duer since; but I never heard from him or any other person any such imputation on any member of Assembly as your Hon^r^ mentions. I shall enquire into the matter.

I transmitted your Hon^r^ a copy of the resolution of Congress concerning the two battalions to be stationed in Connecticut in my last.

The Board of War has sent orders to the Commissary of Military Stores at Springfield to supply the Connecticut troops with arms and accoutrements, upon authentic muster rolls being produced to him. As to the field pieces and other stores for the use of the State, General Washington is best able to determine whether they can be spared. By the best accounts from New York the enemy paid pretty dear for their excursion to Danbury, tis reported here that Governor Tryon is dead of his wounds.* I imagine they wont be fond of making another incursion into Connecticut, unless they could have some greater object in view than any that I know of; however, it is best to be prepared for them. Tis most likely they will pursue the plan of joyning their two armies by the way of Hudson's River, if they have a sufficient force. At present our army in New Jersy is superior to theirs. Some capital stroke may be struck there soon. We have no great expectation of their coming to this City. Gen-

* This was a false report. Governor Tryon died in London in 1788. — EDS.

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eral Schuyler is here. Congress has ordered him to the Northern Department. The Eastern States were of opinion that it would best promote the service for him to have been with the Commander in Chief, & that would probably have been carried if Rhode Island had been represented. Some are apprehensive that his taking command in the Northern Department may interfere with General Gates's plans, and be prejudicial to the service at a time when the campaign is expected to be opened.

The Commissary General is here. Congress is about to make some new regulations in that department.

A committee is appointed to consider what honors are due to the memory of General Wooster.* Major General Arnold is here. Congress has ordered an elegant horse properly caparisoned to be presented to him.

I am, with great esteem & regard,

Your Hon^{r} obedient, humble servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

Governor TRUMBULL.

P. S. I saw an account in the New Haven paper that one Griswold was executed as a traitor and spy by the sentence of a Court Martial. If he was an inhabitant of the State, & not of the army, I think he ought to have been tryed before the Superior Court. The resolution of Congress for the punishment of spies respects only persons who are not inhabitants of any of the United States, or under the protection of their laws. We cant be too careful of military incroachments. It is easy to accuse any person with being a spy, & so put his life in the power of a Court Martial if that is allowed. The case of Molesworth who was tryed and executed in this city was approved by Congress, but it was from neces-

* General David Wooster was wounded in the defence of Danbury, April 27, 1777, and died on the 2d of May. Congress ordered a monument to be erected to his memory. See Journals of Congress, Jan. 1, 1777–Jan. 1, 1778, vol. iii. p. 239. — EDS.

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sity, because there was no Civil Courts established in this State. R. S.

Indorsed: 26th May, 1777. Hon° Roger Sherman, Esq^r, *de* M^r Duer's imputation on members of our Assembly; Supply Connecticut troops with arms; Field pieces referred to Gen^l Washington; Gov^r Tryon dead; our army in the Jerseys, superior to Howe's. Recd. 1st June, *ves.*

ANDREW ELIOT* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

BOSTON, June 5, 1777.

HONORABLE SIR, — My son, who hath the honor to be employed by you in the service of the State of Connecticut, in a late journey to and from Dartmouth was obliged to ride in a very rainy season, which hath thrown him into a fever that at first greatly alarmed us, but thro' the favor of Heaven the symptoms are very much abated and we hope he will soon be able to attend business. If things do not turn out very different from our present expectations, your Honor will hear from him in the course of the next week. In the mean time he hath desired me to inform you, that your letter by the post came safe to hand the last week, and that there might be punctual compliance with the directions you was pleased to give, he immediately sent a person to Dartmouth to deliver the stores deposited there to your order. At the same time nothing is neglected here, M^r Greenleaf, the Sheriff of this County, and who is my son's father in law, will take particular care of every thing during his indisposition. He informs me that two vessells and some articles of the cargo which your Honor allowed to be sold here, were put up at auction on Tues-

* Rev. Andrew Eliot, D.D., was born in Boston Dec. 25, 1718, graduated at Harvard College in 1737, was settled over the New North Church in 1742, and died in his native town Sept. 13, 1778. His third son, Samuel, was born June 17, 1748, married Elizabeth Greenleaf in 1771, and died in 1784. He was a merchant in Boston, and agent in Massachusetts for the State of Connecticut. — EDS.

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day, and sold very well. I doubt not all be done to your satisfaction.

May the God of Heaven support you, Sir, under the weight of public cares that is upon you in the present critical day, and give you to see the happy success of your wise and patriotic exertions. I am persuaded the Great Governor of the world hath some great design to accomplish with respect to America. If our *vices* do not prevent it we must be a great, a happy people. From *these* we have more to fear than from the power of Britain, formidable as it is. God may humble us and bring us yet lower, but I have a firm faith that He will exalt us in due time. Our country will be a quiet habitation, a land of liberty, an asylum of the oppressed, the glory and the wonder of the world, unless by our ingratitude and impiety we provoke God to leave us. But I may not trespass on your Honor's important moments,

and am, with the highest esteem and respect, Sir,

Your obliged, faithful servant.

ANDREW ELIOT.

Governor TRUMBULL.

PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, June 5th, 1777.

SIR, — The Hon^ble^ Continental Congress having reinstated me in the command of the Northern Department, I do myself the honor to advise you thereof, and to entreat a renewal of that correspondence from which I have reaped much advantage and enjoyed great satisfaction.

Our army in this quarter still continues weak in numbers. They are, however, extremely healthy, & as we are tolerably well off for tents and other shelter, and that I have hopes they will be well supplied with necessaries,

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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and their officers more attentive than heretofore to keeping the men clean in their persons and quarters, I hope we shall not experience so much disease as heretofore.

Pray, my compliments to the Paymaster General.

I am, Sir, with unfeigned esteem and respect,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

PH: SCHUYLER.

The Hon^ble^ JON^TH^ TRUMBULL, Esq^r^, &c.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Hon^r^ Governor Trumbull, Hartford. Fav^d^ p Maj^r^ Pierce.

ALBANY, 9th June, 1777.

HON^D^ SIR, — I arrived in this place in safety on Friday eve^g^ after leav^g^ Hartford; have nothing very material to inform. General Schuyler had assumed the com̃and here two days before my arrival. General Gates is leav^g^ us this day, — I hope not to quit the service wholly; he thinks himself extreamly illused, & is not insensible to the injury.

The design of the enemy's approach on the lake appears to have been to receive some wheat & other provisions from Gilleland's Creek, & a number of cattle collect^g^ on the opposite shore, which happily *we* had secured from them. Their appearance was magnified by the beholders & supposed to be the whole army; they soon disappeared, & are returned with some disappointment. There has been no discovery since. General S^t^ Clair, with Gen^l^ De Fermoy (a Frenchman) & their suits left Albany yesterday for Ty. The former takes the comand att that post. The Indian treaty ended much to the satisfaction of the Indians, who are gone home with very peaceable intentions & good dispositions towards their American brothers. I beleive they are firmly determined to take no active part on either side.

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The old arms have been wait^{g} an opportunity to be sent down & are still on hand. It will be best for the tools, &c., &c., to come on as soon as may be without wait^{g} the twine. I wish for the post rider as soon as convenient, & hope p him to have the newspapers regularly. I am, Hon^{d} Sir,

Your most obedient son,

J. TRUMBULL, JUN^{R}.

Hon^{o} Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 9th June, 1777, Paymaster General, rec^{d} 15th ins^{t} p M^{r} Adams. *De* his arrival at Albany, 6th vespere. General Schuyler resumed y^{e} command. Gen^{l} Gates leaves there the 9th, disgusted, looks on himself ill used. The alarm occasiond from the enemy's com^{s} to Gilleland's Creek for wheat & cattle, — the latter taken by us & they disappointed. Indian treaty ended to the satisfaction of the enemy, — they will take part on neither side. Old arms ready; best to have the teams come on.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Public Service. His Honor Governor Trumbull, Hartford or Lebanon, Connecticut. Fav^{d} p Maj^{r} Pierce.

ALBANY, 10th June, 1777.

HON^{D} SIR, — Since writing you yesterday we have the *return* of a scout into Canada; their report is very favourable as to their discoveries. They confirm the burn^{g} of seven houses in S^{t} Johns & one att Isle Aux Noix. The troops are about 7,000 in number, remaining in their cantonments thro different parts of the country the 21st May. Two regiments were preparing to march for *Quebec;* General Carleton at Quebec. 1100 men had died in the vicinity of Montreal during the winter. Tis said Burgoyne arrived att Quebec 10th May, without troops, Col^{o} McClean with him; Canadians very illy used & much disaffected. Indians all quiet in their villages. No batteaus built in the course of winter, 150 to be built; two armed vessels cruizing on the lake, the others att S^{t}

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Johns. 300 regulars att Isle Aux Noix; 200 S^{t} Johns; 20 att Chamblé. The German troops disaffected & in dispute with the General, say^{s} they came out only to garrison Quebec, not willing to open a campaign in any other service; many demand^{s} to return to their country upon the foot^{s} (as they say) of their time being up; rather than continue in the service would desert, if they had the means of escaping. Wheat in Canada one dollar p̱ bushell, pork 20 coppers p̱ pound. General Carleton had published in Quebec an ordonnance requiring all those who had not six months provisions in store to retire into the country. Cap^{t} La Tourte saw a fleet of 40 sail in Gulph of S^{t} Lawrence, "supposed to be a *French fleet.*" As to the last article our opinion does not comport with Cap^{t} La Tourte. We suppose the fleet to be those transports which left N. York in April destined to Canada for troops. The troops in Canada are nine regiments of German & eight British.

I must beg, Sir, this intelligence may not be *published*, — it may have ill effects, — it may prevent my being able to furnish you any further discoveries.

Tis almost reduced to a certainty that *General* Schuyler will be chosen *Governor* of this State.

I am, Hon^{d} Sir, your most dutiful & affectionate

JON^{A} TRUMBULL, JUN^{R}.

Gov. TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 10th June, 1777. Paymaster General. Favorable report from Canada, &c. Recd. 15th p M^{r}. Adams, 5 o'cl., P. M. General Schuyler to be Gov^{r} of the State of N. York.

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PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On publick service. To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, at Lebanon, State of Connecticut.

STATE OF NEW YORK, KINGSTON, June 10th, 1777.

SIR, — An application has been made to the Council of Safety of this State by Doctor Platt Townsend, requesting their interposition with the Government of Connecticut that he might be allowed to erect salt works there and transport the salt into this State for sale.

The Council made not the least hessitation to comply with Doctor Townsend's request, as the inhabitants of this State are suffering to a very great degree for that necessary article; being shut up from the ocean by the common enemy, and in a great measure deprived of any benefit from it by the embargo laid in the Eastern States, their distresses will become insupportable, unless speedy measures be taken for their relief. The Board has therefore directed me to write to your Excellency upon the subject and to request not only that Doctor Townsend may be allowed to erect his works, but that a general indulgence may be granted to all such as may incline to erect salt works for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants of this State. As it is impossible that our sister States should have entertained the most distant inclinations of assisting the common enemy to distress this State, the Board is firmly persuaded that this just and necessary requisition will be cheerfully complied with.

The late Convention wrote to you on the 18th of April last, which I presume must have miscarried, as no answer

* Pierre Van Cortlandt was born in Cortlandt Manor Jan. 10, 1721, and died in New York May 1, 1814. On the breaking out of the War of the Revolution he joined the American side, and was successively a member of the Provincial Convention, the Council of Safety, and the Provincial Congress. Upon the organization of the State government he was chosen Lieutenant Governor, and held that office for eighteen years. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. vi. p. 237. — EDS.

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has been received; therefore I take the liberty to transmit a copy herewith.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellencies most obed^{t} serv^{t}.

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Pres^{dt}*.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

ISRAEL PUTNAM* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Gov^{r} Trumbull. Connecticut. P^{r} Express.

HEAD QUARTERS, PEEKSKILL, 19th June, 1777.

DEAR SIR, — By express from his Excellency General Washington I am informed that Gen^{l} Howe moved on the night preceeding the 14th inst^{t}, with the main body of his army from Brunswick to Somerset Court House; the enemy now form a line from thence to Brunswick. We are constantly harrassing them with light troops. The militia seem well disposed to lend every aid in their power; no important movement has yet been made, tho' almost hourly expected.

The General writes me in the most urgent manner to forward the troops; no endeavours of mine shall be wanting; and I doubt not, your utmost exertions will be used for this important purpose. I wish the Colonels would be more attentive that the men who are forwarded to camp come properly officered; there has been great neglect in this particular; many of the regim^{ts} at this post, have not an officer of higher rank than Lieutenant.

I am, Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your most ob^{t}, hum. serv^{t},

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL. ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Indorsed: 19th June, 1777. Maj^{r} Gen^{l} Putnam, *de* Gen^{l} Washington's situation. To forward the Officers. Rec^{d} 22^{d} inst^{t}.

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* Israel Putnam was born in Danvers, then a part of Salem, Mass., Jan. 7, 1718, was one of the first to join the American forces after the battle of Lexington, served with zeal and ability until he was disabled by a paralytic attack at the beginning of 1780, and died in Brooklyn, Conn., May 19, 1790. His Life has been often written. — EDS.

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ISRAEL PUTNAM TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL

(*On public service*) *His Excellency Governour Trumbull, Connecticut. I. Putnam.*

PEEKSKILL, 21st June, 1777.

DEAR SIR, — The enclosed is a copy of a letter I have just received from Genl Washington.* The operations of the enemy, tho' still doubtful, are probably intended against this quarter, and this probability is heightned by the prospect of hostilities to the northward.

You are perhaps acquainted that a chain is thrown across this River; for the defence of this chain and the farther security of the river, his Excely Genl Washington has ordered the ships and gallies to be stationed at the chain whenever they were compleated. One of the ships is brought down; but to complete her we were reduced to the sad necessity of taking guns from the forts.

How we shall furnish the other ship I know not. The Salisbury furnace I am informed is now in blast, and the guns they are casting of exactly the same dimensions with those we had for the ships last fall.

If you can direct me the method to obtain these guns for the use above mentioned, it would be rendring the public an eminent service; and no pains shall be spared on my part to secure them without delay.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Your mo. obt servt.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Governr TRUMBULL.

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* The copy referred to is not among the Trumbull Papers. — EDS.

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JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

CAMP, MIDDLE BROOK, 22nd June, 1777.

HONRD SIR, — We have been in great hurry here for 10 days past, preparing to follow the enemy. They have been out as far as Somerset Court House, on the road towards Phila. The army & militia turned out & appeared so strong that they did not choose to go farther from their stronghold. After plundering & abusing the inhabitants they retired back to Brunswick again with great precipitation, burning several buildings as they went off. It appears now by their motions that they intend soon to embark soon from Amboy, whether to go to Phila or further southward, up N. River, or into N. England, is entirely unknown to us. We soon expect a long chase somewhere after them. They have lost a considerable number of officers & men in their excurtion, & I believe are really affraid to meet our army in the field. The militia turned out beyond our most sanguine expectations, here & in Pensila. I wish they had gone on, so that we could have got between them & the water. We shall never be better prepared for them.

With proper salutations to the family & all friends,

I am, Hond Sir, your most dutifull son,

JOS: TRUMBULL.

Mr Root came here last evening; left Colo Dyer, &c., above the mountains, — gone on by way of Easton.

Govr TRUMBULL.

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JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To The Hon^ble Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon. Fav^d by M^r Turnbull.

CAMP, MIDDLE BROOK, 22^nd June, 1777.
6 o'clock, P. M.

HON^RD SIR, — I wrote you in the morning p^r post; this opportunity offering p M^r Turnbull, who is to call on you, I can now inform you that the enemy have evacuated Brunswick & gone to Amboy, burning several little places before them as they went off. Our people are now in Brunswick & hang^g on the enemy's rear; I don't yet learn what we have killed or taken, or what baggage, &c.; perhaps M^r T. will learn some more particulars, before he leaves this, as we expect further intelligence every minute.

This event will put us on the move, & a good lookout should be kept on the sea coast for intelligence of their movements, that the troops & militia may keep them in play 'till the army can get up. I think they are in such terror now they dare not look at our army, but may do mischief along the coast, from their advantage of moving by water. I rather expect N. River may be their object.

I am, Hon^rd Sir, your dutifull son,

JOS: TRUMBULL.

GOV^r TRUMBULL.

I have just rec^d Bro^r David's of 3^d ins^t about the pork & beef he has at Lebanon; he 'll let it lye at present, as it is not yet certain in which way it may be wanted, unless Cap^t Wadsworth has or shall give orders about it. If any overhauling is wanted he must have it done.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

LEBANON, June 25th, 1777.

S^r^, — Your favor of the 10th instant has been recieved, and the contents duly noticed. Yours of the 18th April last did not come to hand untill the sessions of the General Assembly, when the multiplicity of public business prevented my returning an answer untill the close of the sessions, which was then done and forwarded, and doubt not you have recieved the same. The necessary orders for the return of the prisoners are making out, will soon be compleated, & forwarded the first opportunity to them, when I shall write you on the subject. The manufacturing that necessary article, salt, in this State by Doctor Platt Townsend, or any other inhabitant of the State of New York, and transporting the same into that State for the supply of the inhabitants, can have no objection to, as it always affords me pleasure to have it in my power to alleviate the distresses of any who are suffering in the cause of American freedom. On application made by the Committee of the Manor of Cortland, May 9th last, liberty was given for manufacturing salt in this and transporting it into your State. Enclosed is copy of the vote of the Gov^r^ and Council of Safety of this State on the subject for your observation.

I am, with great truth and regard, Sir,

Your most humble servant.

JON^TH^ TRUMBULL.

Hon^ble^ PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

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PHILIP SCHUYLER* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

ALBANY, June 28th, 1777.

SIR, — I have just recieved two letters from General St Clair, dated Ticonderoga on the 25th and 26th instant. He advises me that the enemy's fleet and army are arrived at Crown Point, that they have sent strong detachments, one to cut off Fort George, and the other either to surprise Skeensborough or throw themselves on the communication between that and Ticonderoga. The troops there are greatly inadequate to the defence of the extensive works on both sides of the lake, and I have unhappily no troops to reinforce him. The militia of this State are called upon, but I cannot expect that they will be numerous, as those of the western part of the State are ordered to march at a moment's warning to oppose Sir John Johnson, who is expected to make an irruption on the Mohawk River.

I have written to the committee of Berkshire, and requested them to call upon the counties and districts in that State and in Connecticut.

Should the militia turn out with spirit, I am in hopes we shall be able to baffle the enemy. I have requested the militia to rendezvous at Fort Edward or Fort Ann, as may be most convenient. Your Excellency will be pleased to order those from Connecticut by any route you may think best. I believe by the way of Albany would be as expeditious as any and more convenient.

I am, Sir, with great respect & esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedt, hble. servant.

PH: SCHUYLER.

His Excellency JONTH TRUMBULL, Esqr.

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* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To The Hon^ble Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon.

CAMP, MIDDLE BROOK, 29th June, 1777.

HON^RD SIR, — Since I wrote you last, the enemy have quitted Brunswick & gone to Amboy, & I believe most of them are on Staten Island; they were get^g over yesterday. It will take them some time to embark, to go any where else; they may send some party's on the coast of Connecticut, but I rather fancy they 'll go up N. River or to Newport. When they went off from Brunswick they burned & destroyed as they went, & drove off the live stock on the road; & since they have been out with their whole force as far as the Scotch Plains, & so a circuit to Eliz^aTown & Woodbridge, & burned & destroyed many buildings, & drove off the stock which [they] carried on Staten Island to fatten; they came with their whole force to effect this; they have not made these manuveres, without very considerable loss; by our people continually hang^g on their rear & flanks & harrassing them, they have suffered very considerably. The most of the loss we have met with was in an action which L^d Stirling had with them last Wensday, in which he lost 2 or 3 men killed, 8 or 10 wounded, & 20 or 30 missing, some of which are daily coming in. He also lost 2 field pieces, 3 pounders. He was greatly overpowered with numbers, & no party near to reinforce him. He & his people behaved exceedingly well tho' they met with loss.

The militia of this State have behaved to admiration. Brunswick is as bad as destroyed & dirty beyond description. The late conduct of the enemy has converted all the Tory's in this part of the world, & not left one remain^g. Congress have at last compleated the new regulations of the Comissary Department. It does not

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suit me. I shall get some alterations, or decline the appointment which was unanimous in my favr. They direct me to keep an office in Phila & to be always present there myself or clerk. This I shall get altered or decline, as the sum allowed me would not maintain me in that most extravagant place; the pay is 8 dollrs & 6 rations p day. With proper regards to all the family & friends,

I am, Hond Sir, your dutifull son,

JOS: TRUMBULL.

Govr TRUMBULL.

THADDEUS BURR TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, att Lebanon. Free. T. Burr. Mr Hildrup is desired to forward it as soon as possible.

FAIRFIELD, July 4th, 1777.

Sr, — Immediately on my arrival home I wrote to Col Davenport to let him know the necessity of his attending at the Council-Board, but have heard nothing from him. Since which, my negro man Cato, who was my main dependence for haying and harvest, has run of to Long Island; that it is next to impossible for me to wait upon your Excellency till after harvest, unless the enemy should drive us off. Our frontiers to the westward are left so bare that, I confess, I see nothing to hinder them from penetrating as far as this place. And I think we have the greatest reason to suppose they will do it, as soon as we are in the midst of harvest. I hope, however, that God in his kind providence will yet protect us. We seem of late to have got out of the way of direct intelligence. If we may believe the accounts we have from the northwerd and westwerd, I acknowledge that it appears to me that we are in a very critical situation. But light may spring out of darkness, and the event must be left to the Great Disposer of all things. Yesterday morning ten of the prisoners who were taken in the Danbury expedition

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were landed here from a flag. Leu^{t} Betts, who is an intelligent man, says, by all he could collect at New York, (which he left on Tuesday last) he is inclined to think that the enemy in the Jerseys from Thursday to Saturday last had not succeeded so well as they expected; that of 5000 prisoners which they pretended they had taken, he could see but 62, and was asured that they had taken no more.

That our prisoners fared very hard, and that many of them had not clothing enough to cover their nakedness; that many of them were obliged from meer necessity to list into the service of the enemy. Can't we by some means or other send them in some tow shirts & trowsers, which will make them comfortable in the warm weather? It appears to me it might be done, at least for the soldiers who belong to this State; they, certainly, on such an occasion can be picked up in the several towns. Humanity requires that it should be done.

Should your Excellency and your Council in our absence appoint a Co^{l} for Douglasses reg^{t} I wish Leu^{t} Co^{l} Dimon may stand in his fair light. He is a man of good moral character, great natural abilities, steady courage, and a surprizing turn for the art of war, which is much improved by being eight months intimately connected with the brave Gen^{l} Montgomery. At the time of Lexington battle he was Cap^{t} of a militia company, and went forward on that occasion as Cap^{t} of a volunteer company, and has ever since been in the service. In July, before they marched from New York, General Montgomery appointed him Brigade Maj^{r}; during the seige at S^{t} Johns and for two months before it surrendered, he acted as a full Maj^{r}, and had the promise of General Montgomery of a commission, which was actually made out, but his death prevented his geting it. The winter and spring following he went to N. York as Maj^{r} to Warterbury's reg^{t}, in which station he acted to the universal appro-

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bation of all his supr officers. The last summer he was Majr to Bradley's regt, since which he was appointed Majr to Douglasses regt and then a Leut Col, in which station he has been exceeding industerous, and had the whole care and trouble of fixing and forwarding the regt. Thus stands his character and rank; and should your Excellency and Council adopt the same rule as was with respect to Chandler's regt, I cannot see why Dimon should not have the regt.

I doubt not he will have justice done him that he may be saved in the service. I wish it because I know he is a good officer, and wants nothing but a liberal education to make him in every point equal to any of our first Cols.

My respectful compliments to the gentlemen of the Board; and believe me, with great truth and regard,

Your Excellency's sincere friend
and most obt, hum Servt.
THADDEUS BURR.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 4th July, 1777. Thads Burr, Esqr, *de* Col° Davenport; Return of Danbury Prisoners; Col° Dimon, &c. Recd 7th inst.

JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEW HAVEN, 5 July, 1777.

HONp SIR, — I could not find any cartridges that suited the bore of my guns, so that I have been obliged to take some powder of Mr Doolittle & ball of Col. Fitch & make cartridges. I have just recd orders from General Putnam to repair imediately to Peeks Kill with all the Continental troops. There are about 200 men here which will march tomorrow morning for Fairfield. There are about 100 at that place & between one & two hundred at Stamford & Byram, all which will move as soon as I can get orders to them. Upon which conclude you will order militia on the coast.

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A flag of truce came in here yesterday from New York with clothing & a little matter of money for the prisoners. Sergeant Fagan is returned in it & Lieut Dawson of the 38th is come to see to the delivery and *take receipts from each individual.* As this would take up a fortnight or three weeks I told Lt Dawson it would give umbrage to the country, nor did I think it reasonable that he should be permitted to go all over the country & tarry so long in it. I proposed to him to deliver all the articles over to Sergt Fagan, or to have them committed to a certain Lt McDonnald, a prisoner in Massachusetts, or to have the Sergeant's prisoners at or near Hartford come to this place. The latter seemed agreeable to him & I was sending for them when he went on board to bring the clothes; he soon sent me word by Sergeant Fagan that he would let Fagan take the clothes, &c., for the 55th regt, to which he belonged, & that he would take the others back, & is gone in disgust.

There are about 4000 cartridges of this State's in this town & 5000 at Fairfield, an incompetent quantity for the present times.

I am, with love & compliments to all friends,

Your affectionate & obedt son,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esqr, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon. P express.

MORRISTOWN, 6th July, 1777.

HONRD SIR, — I wrote you last from Middle Brook, since which the whole army has removed to this place. This movement was made on the ground of the information from the northward, that the enemy were advanced as far as Crown Point, on their way to attack Ty, which being true, it was not doubted but Genl Howe would

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cooperate, by going up the North River; & when we removed here last Thirsday, it was expected to halt here only for a night, & go on the next day for the River. On our arrival here, intelligence from the northward was not so full by another express as at first. Therefore we are still lying here, in a position easy to go on to N. River, or to Phil^{a}, as future intelligence may turn up; how long we shall remain here is uncertain. By all our intelligence from the enemy below, from prisoners escaping, & deserters, &c., &c., they are about a full remove from New York. Three prisoners who came in yesterday, & escaped the night before from New York, say that the forreign troops are all embarked, & the British are embarking, that the troops are encamped on the same ground they first landed on, & it is remarkable that they returned to that spot the day twelve months from that they first took possession of it on, & the ships lye as then. That the transports are mostly large ships; they are fully wooded & watered; the merch^{ts} & others in New York are pack^{g} up their goods & furniture; & that every thing appears like a general remove from that place. Indeed, these facts being true, it looks like a leaving the country. Suppose them embark^{g} the troops only & in large ships & wooding & watering, that is agst going up the N. River, or along shore, except into large & deep harbours. The size of the ships & wood^{g} & water^{g} seafaring men can hardly be deceived in; they are our own people, & we can't have so great distrust of their fidelity as of forreigners; on the whole, I conceive they are going off to leave us, or removing wholly to Boston or Newport. I apprehend the latter the rather of the two. I can see an object for them there of importance, & which they may carry probably before our army can get up. That is, the fleet at Providence & the town, & they may think it easy to march across the country from thence to Boston. If they had ever done a wise thing we might

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expect this movement from them; then their leaving a garrison at Newport, & being in possession there, they can land their troops on that Island at leisure & security, & there is room & depth of water eno' for their fleet, large as it may be. I hope if they go that way, that New England may not fall short of this & the other States this way in their exertions to save their country. They may depend on the greatest dispatch in the army's coming up to their assistance. I think at any rate it is best for the people to hasten their hay^{s} & harvests to be in readiness if they should come. It must take them some time yet; they can't embark & disembark such numbers, & fit out so large a fleet without expence of time. I hope from the size of the ships that they will not venture thro' the Sound, & that the coast of Connecticut may be free from their ravages; it will doubtless be best however to have a good look out kept to guard agst sudden irruptions with smaller party's. I am some times apprehensive of their turning their measures from the pursuit of conquest, to a war of plunder, ravage, & destruction, their behaviour at quitting here carry strong marks of such a plan being adopted. In the skirmish they had last week with L^{d} Sterling they have lost considerable numbers, — some considerable men; they were much exasperated at it. We suffered but little, except in loosing three field pieces; our men behaved exceeding well, but were greatly overpowered by numbers. It is said a gentleman, a Captain Cornwallis, son of the Gen^{ll}, was killed & a Gen^{ll} Officer, &c.; but of this we are not certain. Some persons however of importance are killed, by all accot^{s} from the inhabitants who are left behind. They plundered the inhabitants so totally, that the General has been obliged to order from the stores flour, &c., &c., for the remaining inhabitants, to save them from perishing. Our army is daily increasing, are well armed, cloathed, covered, & fed; they are yet healthy. I fear for them, this & the

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next month, & part of Sept^r, but hope for the best. I wish they could be better supplied with vegitables & vinegar, both which are scarce & hardly to be obtained. I beg my best respects to the family & all friends, & am,

Hon^rd Sir, your dutifull son.

JOS : TRUMBULL.

I see that the Assembly have ordered the stile of *Excellency* to their Governor. I wish I could see less fondness for following the fashion of their neighbours, that they would adhere strictly to original principles, & abhor all appearances of regal & majesterial modes, forms & titles. Gen^l Gates, I understand, is expected here in a day or two, I suppose to take his proper place in the grand army.

Please to forward the inclosed.

GOV^r TRUMBULL.

I have nothing new since writing this. We are yet wait^g the enemy's motions.

J. TRUMBULL.

MORRISTOWN, 9^th July, 1777.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Public Service. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, State of Connecticutt. Albany, 8^th July. — J. T.

ALBANY, 8^th July, 1777.

HON^D SIR, — Tyconderoga & Mount Independance are in possession of our enemies. Att a Council of War it was determined to evacuate those posts. This resolution was effected last Friday, with such *precipitancy* & *hurry* that almost all the stores, provision, amunition, cannon & baggage was left behind. A few men, with such articles as could be thrown into the smallest N° of boats they had, are come by way of Skeensborough, & are now

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att *Fort Ann.* The main body of the garrison are gone off by way of Castleton, fetch[g] a circuit thro the country to Skeens. These we have not heard from since their leav[g] the post. Our misfortune is hightened by the loss att Skeensborough; the pursuit of the enemy was so rapid that our little party by *water* was overtaken at that place. With the same hurry & confusion in which they sett off, they abandoned the vessels & boats with every thing on board them. These the enemy have possessed themselves of, among which I am told was one vessell loaded with *powder.* These are the principal circumstances I am yett possessed of. I dare not make any observations; I have given you *facts* which I submit to your own reflections. I will only say that I must be possessed of some very material circumstances in addition to what I now know, before I can conceive the necessity a garrison, well *filled* with provisions, amunition, military stores, above an hundred cannon, &c., &c., & between 3 & 4000 men, should be under of abandon[g] their post, att the *appearance* only of not more than twice their number, —I say the *appearance* only, because I dont yet learn that a gun had been fired, save by scout[g] parties, &c. But Heaven has thus decreed; it must be so.

This misfortune will, I fear, be the most important in its consequences of any thing that Providence has yet cast into our lott. Att one blow it lays open all N. England to the incursions of the enemy (who are prepared with their *savages*), as well as exposes *this* whole State, now posesed att each extremity by the foe. The horrid work of murder is also begun att the western posts. Yesterday brot us also the account of a *second* scalp[g] match att Fort *Stanwix* alias *Schuyler.*

General Schuyler, with the little handfull of fugitives from Ty, & the small body of militia already collected, is form[g] his *stand* att *Fort Ann,* where they are in want of *every thing* that can be conceived necessary for the sub-

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sistance of an army. Without speedy & effectual support they will not be able to maintain themselves there; & if *running* comes in vogue I know not where they may stop. If N. England is not roused now, they must be seized with a fatal lethergy which must perhaps end in their destruction.

While I am writing General Nixon's brigade from below are com^s^ into town. This is some relief. I dont know that any more troops are yet under orders from Gen^ll^ Washington. Expresses are gone to every quarter. The kind interposition of Providence is my support, as little reason as we have from our crying sins to hope for this mercy, — yet I do not give up this hope.

General *Gates's* opinion of the enemy's operations this campaign is, I think, verifying fast. We [every moment?] expect to hear an attempt below. The *old gentleman* told me little before he left us, that the enemy from the northward would not be down *till July;* that General Howe's army below, if not lost to every idea of their most important interest or some unforeseen accident did not intervene, would certainly cooperate with motions above, & spoke with some uneasiness of the inattention paid by superiour powers to his opinion. But — misfortunes sometimes teach us our mistakes att great expence. I wish we had a channel of correspondence from this to Connecticut; *this* must go by an uncertain conveyance. My best regards attend all friends & connections. I am, with greatest affection,

Your most dutifull.

J. TRUMBULL, Ju^r^.

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OLIVER WOLCOTT* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

LITCHFIELD, 9t July, 1777.

SIR, — I have enclosed copys of two letters from Generals Schuyler and Learned which I have just now rec[d] from Major Sedgwick of Sheffield. The whole of my intelligence is contained in these copys. By my letter of the 7t I acquainted your Excellency that I had ordered one half of Burrell's regiment to the northward; he writes to me that his men are assembling. I have repeated my orders to him, and have sent similar orders to Col. Humphrys. I have not yet given any direction for the march of any of the other two regiments in my brigade, as I apprehended that the enemy will soon be up the North River, and might probably, perhaps at the same time, endeavour to divert the attention of this State by an attack upon our towns on the sea side, so that I tho't it not unlikely that the service of these two regiments might be more wanted for the defence of this quarter than at the northward. But I shall be happy in receiving the directions of your Excellency and the Council of Safety.

I cannot learn where our garrison which left Ticonderoga are. The acc[o] which is sent is less explicit than I could wish. I have directed the express to procure some cartridge paper, if to be had, as it is much wanted here.

I am your Excellency's most obedient,
humble Servant.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

GOV[r] TRUMBULL.

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* Oliver Wolcott, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was born in Windsor, Conn., Nov. 26, 1726, graduated at Yale College in 1747, and died in Litchfield Dec. 1, 1797. He was eminent in both civil and military life. When this letter was written he was in command of one of the brigades for the home defence. In 1786 he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut, and held that office until 1796, when he was elected Governor. He died while holding the latter office. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. vi. pp. 587, 588; Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 137–139. — EDS.

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JOSEPH SPENCER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PROVIDENCE, 11th July, 1777.

SIR, — I have the pleasure to congratulate your Excellency on the success of Lt. Co[l] Barton, who, with the number of forty, including Cap[ts] Addams & Philips & some other brave officers, last night went on Rhode Island and brought off Maj[r] Gen[l] Prescot & one of his Aid de Camps & the centry at the Gen[ls] door, all that was at the Gen[ls] quarters. This was done with such prudence that no alarm was given amongst the enemy untill our party had got near to the main. I have just had the inteligence by Cap[t] Adams, Gen[l] Prescot is now at Warwick. I have sent for him here. As I think it not expedient to keep Gen[l] Prescot in this State, I shall take the liberty to send him to the care of your Excellency & Council, untill the pleasure of Gen[l] Washington can be known with regard to the disposal and treatment of Gen[l] Prescot. I shall send by Cap[t] Wyley to Gen[l] Washington tomorrow to know his mind in this matter. I believe tis best to keep Prescot very safely, untill I receive directions how to conduct.* I heard last night by M[r] Greanlief of Windham that Ticondaroge was taken, but I hope tis not true, or that it is no more than our people's quitting Ty, and repairing to Fort Independence, but we are very desirous of knowing the truth. We have no other news here.

I am, with great respect,

Your Excellency's obedient, hum. servant.

JO[s] SPENCER.

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* Gen. Robert Prescott was born in Lancashire, England, in 1725, and died in his native land in 1816. After his capture on Rhode Island he was held as a prisoner of war until the early part of the following year, when he was exchanged for Gen. Charles Lee, who had been captured by the British. See Dictionary of National Biography, vol. xlvi. pp. 304, 305; Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. v. p. 109. — EDS.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Public Service. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, State of Connecticut, Lebanon. ' *Albany,* 11th *July. J. Trumbull, Junr.*

ALBANY, 11th July, 1777.

HONR SIR, — I wrote you three days ago p Mr Wheeler. The next day our little army or a part of it had a skirmish with the enemy att *Fort Ann,* which would have been much to the disadvantage of the enemy had not *our* amunition failed. The enemy however were glad to retire. We could not pursue for want of *lead.* Mr Pierce, who is very intelligent & observant, writes me the enemy would have been cutt off, but for the reason mentioned; *he* adds that att night the pickett guard could not be furnished with *bullets* for the guard. Tis better now; *some lead* is gone on. I wish we had a *sufficient supply* to send them. Our loss of stores, &c., att Ty is more & more sensibly felt. We are destitute of every thing, havg given *all* to the enemy, who I dare say are *surprized* themselves att their acquisition. Expresses are gone to the labaratory att Springfield for *every* necessary. I hope the[y] will not delay a moment sendg to our relief. One Captain, 2 subs, 1 Doctor, some privates were taken in the skirmish att Fort Ann, & considerable loss to the enemy as well as to ourselves. The *main body* which marched by way of Castleton, (after much pain on their acco) is heard off & will probably be with General Schuyler att Fort Edward this night. In their march, about 5 miles from Castleton, they were attacked (their rear division) by 17 compes of light infantry & some compa of grenadiers, when a smart action insued, near two hours, in which our people fought with great spirit & bravery & kept the field. 'Tis reported by *gentlemen* from them, that the enemy left of *dead* near 300 on the ground; 24 are prisoners. Our *missing* are about 300. I seem rejoiced to hear of *some blood* in the affair. The characters of our Generals who were att

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Ty — particularly S^{t} Clair's — are suffering, perhaps irretreivably. The minds of the people are much inflamed; some cry *treachery*, some *cowardice; all* blame, not without too much & too great reason; *my* heart is full. Perhaps tis not prudent to say any more.

The militia of the country are flock^{g} in great numbers to Fort Edward. Gen^{l} Schuyler is distressed almost to death with vexation. Dont yet know of any more troops yet ordered from below. I hope they are com^{g}. Militia are poor dependance att any time, & it is distressing to have them in the field att this season.

Happily for us, the enemy, as I predicted, dont *press*. Delay will give us time to recover our sences, collect our scattered forces, & draw together a body, I hope sufficient to prevent their approach till we are in better state for their reception. This will soon be the case, if a *concert* is not struck up from *below*, which is much to be expected. *Delay* on the enemy side will also give us time to *withdraw* our stores, cannon, &c., from Fort George, or *establish* ourselves there, as circumstances may turn up. Nothing but a safe withdraw from thence has *hitherto* been thot off, & stores are bring^{g} to Fort Edw^{d}.

We hear nothing more from the westward of *imediate* attack. *S^{r} John*, with M^{c}Koy, &c., some regulars, Canadians & savages are att Oswego, wait^{g} to be joined by *Butler* from Niagara. S^{r} John is doubtless in hope of shortly enjoying his estate & possessions att Johnstown, as Gov^{r} Skeen is now in possession of his att Skeensborough.

I write in great haste, hav^{g} but little knowledge of this opportunity.

I am with perfect affection,
Hon^{d} Sir, your dutifull son.
J. TRUMBULL, JUN^{r}.

My love & respects to mother, wife & all friends.

GOV^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 11th July, 1777. Jonth Trumbull, Esq^{r}, from Albany, *de* our troops; Fort Ann; party near Castleton. Rec^{d} 15th vespere p Captain Lyon.

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OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

LITCHFIELD, 14 July, 1777.

SIR, — I was honored with your favour of the tenth, and was glad to find that my conduct in sending part of Burrell's & Humphry's regiments have been approved of, especially since such had been the confused accounts which we had rec^{d} from the northward as to render the utility of any step which might be taken uncertain. Major Willcocks who is to take the command of Col. Humphry's men tells me but few of them turn out, so that he apprehends that he shall not have more than a Captain's company out of that regiment, and the men go forward more slow than I expected. The number from Col. Burrel's regiment are considerably deficient; how many of them have gone forward I cannot certainly say. The men attempt to justify themselves on acc^{o} of the season's being busy, and say they will fight the enemy nearer home. I am sorry to discover these neglects, as it must render our strength, in particular exigences, uncertain. I should have sent by express the inclosed intelligence but supposed that your Excellency must most certainly receive the acc^{o} of our people's having evacuated Tyconderoga and Fort Independence, by the time I could transmit the acc^{o}. But as Gen^{l} Wadsworth, who has just pass^{d} this place for Albany, told me that no certain acc^{o} had been rec^{d} of this strange event when he left the Council, I have transmitted the inclosed original certificates, tho' I beleive they will convey no information. Why the Forts were evacuated is still a matter of utter uncertainty. Our garrison amounted, I understand, to 4100 men; the enemy are said to have been about six thousand. I do not learn that there was the least contest before our people left the Forts, after which, it is said, the enemy attacked Warren's regiment who bro't up the rear, which

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regiment, it is said, has suffered much; and it is reported, so as to gain some credit, that our people got an advantage of the enemy in an encounter at Fort Ann. I cannot say where our army are, it is said by some that they went, at least some of them, to secure some stores at Bennington. Nixon's brigade are gone up, which together with the other forces, the militia of Albany and Berkshire County and the people on the Grants, will, I apprehend, be sufficient to prevent the enemy from penetrating into the country. But as by the enemy's gaining possession of these Forts and stores they will be able to make perpetual inroads upon the out settlements, their distress must be great. To oblidge us to keep up a large force at the northward and keep us in perpetual alarm so as to draw off our attention that way, while Howe with the main army of the enemy carrys on his operations in a manner which may best second these mischeivous designs, may perhaps be the plan of the enemy; and if so their veiws I should imagine were directed up the North River and to the eastward, for should the enemy go to Philadelphia I do not see how they would in any immediate manner cooperate with the northern enemy, but rather leave them exposed to be ruined or at least drove back.

I am your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

Gov^r TRUMBULL.

JOSEPH SPENCER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. P^r Favor Co^l Peck.

PROVIDENCE, 14th July, 1777.

SIR, — Co^l Peck is charg'd with the conveyance of General Prescot, his Aid de Camp M^r William Barrington, and the General's servant to Lebanon, to be under the care and direction of your Excellency untill the pleasure of General Washington is known relative to

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the disposal of them. I have already wrote to him on the subject. I have taken the parole of the General & his ADCamp, confining them to the First Sosciety of Lebanon untill your Excellency takes them under your care & direction. The chief reason for this was a possibility your Excellency might be from home when the Co^ll^ arrives at Lebanon; in that case Co^ll^ Peck will leave the written parols at your Excellency house. The General at present seems very submissive & well pleased with the treatment he has had, not only since he arrived at this place, but from Co^ll^ Barton & party, and seems well suited that his present destination is at Lebanon under the protection of a gentleman of your Excellency's character. By General Washington's letter of the 7th instant to Governor Cooke, it appears that there is some reason to fear the enemy are coming to New England. I hope it will not be so; for we here are in a most miserable weak state. The people in this State are growing extremely careless & stupid. I am much perplexed what to do; the enemy may easily pray upon us.

I am, with great respect and esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient, hum. servant.

J. SPENCER.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 14^th^ July, 1777. Maj^r^ Gen^l^ Spencer, *de* Maj^r^ Gen^l^ Prescot sent here w^th^ his Aid de Camp prisoners, p Col^o^ Peck, rec^d^ 15^th^ inst.

JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r^, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon.

PEEKSKILL, 15^th^ July, 1777.

HON^RD^ SIR, — I came here yesterday, from Ramapough, about 20 miles distance, at the Clove of the mountains. There I left Gen^ll^ Washington with his whole army,

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waiting the motion of the enemy; the latest accot[s] we have from them are, that they are all on board their transports, some in the East River, but principally fallen down to the Hook. This we rather look on as a blind, & expect them up this river to cooperate with Gen[l] Burgoine. At any event we are ready to follow wherever they may lead us. We have a very bad acco[t] from Ty. It is said it is high time that America had a *Byng*. I believe we shall catch one now.

I am returning again imediately to the General, & expect to meet there a Comittee from Congress, on the affairs of my Department, which is wholly at a stand, & I am fatigued almost to death, with it; have been obliged to stand at the scales myself. All the money in the universe would not tempt me to serve another three months such as the last. I hope it will be better soon. With proper salutations to all the family & friends, I am, Hon[rd] Sir,

Your dutifull son.

Jos: Trumbull.

Gov[r] Trumbull.

Indorsed: 15[th] July, 1777. Comissary General at PeeksKill, *de* the enemy's embarkation. His Department. Rec[d] p Brown, 19[th] vespere.

JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq[r], Governor of the State of Connecticut. Lebanon. P M[r] Brown.

Sidman's, in the Clove, 17[th] July, 1777.

Hon[rd] Sir, — I have just rec[d] your's of 14[th] ins[t] p Brown. I wrote you yesterday from Peekskill. I have nothing material to add. The enemy's ships are now up near N. York, the whole fleet, & yesterday a small ship & three tenders came up into Haverstraw Bay. We rather expect them to be the forerunners of the whole fleet com-

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ing up the River. If the fleet is bound to sea they go out with this wind; if they do not go, we may expect them up the River the first good wind. Gen^{ll} Washington has sent to Gen^{ll} How, to offer Gen^{ll} Prescot for Gen^{ll} Lee. We know no more yet from the northern department; nor have I heard what Congress think of that matter. We want a Byng. I believe we shall have one now.

I am, Honrd Sir,

Your dutifull son.

JOS: TRUMBULL.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Clove, 17th July, 1777, Commissary General. A small ship & 2 tenders in Haverstraw Bay. Whole fleet ready to sail. Uncertain. Recd. 19th vespere, p Brown.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, State of Connecticut, Lebanon. Albany, 19th July. J. Trumbull, Jun^{r}.

ALBANY, 19th July, 1777.

HON^{D} SIR, — I have wrote you twice since the unhappy (as we now think) evacuation of Ty & its dependances. These I trust you must have received, 'tho they were not come to hand when General Wadsworth came off. One went by a M^{r} Wheeler of Salisbury, going to Providence; the other by Mr. Smith of Mi[ddle]town.

The inclosed to my brother conta[ins what] further I can communicate. I expect Gen^{ll} Wadsworth from Fort Edward this day or tomorrow; by him I hope you will obtain more & juster accounts than I am able to give. Fort George with every thing appending was in flames the 16th; stores all removed; the garrison drawn back to the main body. A little more retreat^{s} must bring them to this place. I am,

Hon^{d} Sir, Your most dutifull.

J. TRUMBULL JUN^{R}.

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PHILIP SCHUYLER* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

FORT EDWARD, July 19th, 1777.

SIR, — General Wadsworth delivered me your Excellency's letter of the 12th instant. He will inform you of the situation of our army, and its probable strength, for we cannot with any degree of certainty determine their numbers.

The evacuation of Ticonderoga has occasioned much speculation and a great diversity of opinion, & been imputed to a variety of causes. Some say it was done by my order. This I am at liberty positively to deny. Indeed, the general officers that were there have publicly done me justice on this head. I am also at liberty to say that it was done by a resolution of the general officers in Council, together with Colonel Long who commanded a brigade. What the principles are that induced them to the measure are contained in their written proceedings, and in which they were unanimous. Copy of this paper I do not conceive myself at liberty to give to any person, untill my superiors shall have decided whether it ought to be made public or not.

Part of the enemy continue at Skenesborough, another part at Castleton, and a detachment of about 600 of which has advanced towards Colonel Warner, who is at Manchester. The remainder are coming by Lake George. What their strength is at each place I am not perfectly informed of.

Very few of the militia of your State have made their appearance. Those from this State are all ordered out, and have chiefly come. And although part of them ought to go home to save their crops, yet it would not be prudent to permit them untill more come up. I

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therefore wish that yours may be sent on as speedily as possible.

I am, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

PH: SCHUYLER.

His Excellency JONTH TRUMBULL, Esqr, &c., &c.

PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

FORT EDWARD, July 21st, 1777.

SIR, — The great impatience expressed by the militia from the County of Berkshire in the State of Massachusetts Bay, and by those of the County of Albany in this State (who were all ordered up) to return to their habitations to harvest their crops, has induced a Council of general officers held at this place to advise that half of them should be sent back, lest the whole should have left us. Before this diminution of our force, we were inferior to the least number that any accounts we have recieved from the enemy makes them. Inclose you copy of proceedings of the Council, and entreat that what they recommend to be furnished by the State of Connecticut may be speedily complied with. The enemy are very busily employed in opening a road from Skeensborough towards us, and doubtless mean to attempt a passage into the interior part of the country. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we should be so reinforced as to be able to prevent them from carrying their intentions into execution, and I doubt not that by your exertions we shall soon have a reinforcement. I am

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

PH: SCHUYLER.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Public Service. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Hartford.
P Express.

ALBANY, 22d July, 1777.

HONR SIR, — Since Generals Wadsworth's leavs this town nothing very material has occurred. All matters above, as far as I am acquainted, remain in statu quo. The enemy att Fort Ann & Skeensborough, some in Ty, some employed getting their water craft into Lake George, some in the Grants, what their particular intentions I will not pretend to say. It is past a doubt with me, that they intend a further inruption into the country; they have every encouragement in the world from the manner of our evacuats the fortresses & the precipitate flight they have experienced from only the appearance of their arms. What opposition can they expect from people who will not stand to receive a single fire? This opinion perhaps may lead them into some fatal step. Our *men* will fight if *officers* will lead them; the *men* are certainly not in fault.

General Arnold passed thro town yesterday, in short time from Congress, on some particular errand, at the special request of General Washington on the present occasion. When measures are taken I may be att liberty to speak.

Inclosed you will find General Burgoyne's Proclamation of 2d instt, addressed to the people att large, also his sumons to the inhabitants of the Grants, with General Schuyler's answer to the latter. These are not made public here. I have obtained a copy from particular hand.

I wish some Continental troops could be sent this way, a good body. Burgoyne is a pushs genius, & elated with success. Militia are poor dependance opposed to such

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an enemy. I think it of the last importance that the enemy should not possess themselves of the navigation of this River & comunication with Canada. I fear the greatest danger att present is att this end of the State; our enemy, the General, is more active, vigilant & enterprizing than his coadjutors below. Our resoursces are not so easy. A loss of this part of this State will have the most unhappy influence on our Indian allies & neighbours, besides it is the granary of this country. Our Indians who were to have been here 15th instant to a talk with Comissioners are now come down; tis said they are first to hold a conference with Butler & perhaps Sir John att Oswego. After this they may come here. I hope *we may* be here to receive them. I am, with dutifull respects, Hond Sir,

Your obedient son,

JONA TRUMBULL, JUNR.

I have covered to your care a number of letters. M. Shaw, M. Mumford or Jere Wadsworth will take them.

Indorsed: 22nd July, 1777, Paymaster Trumbull, *de* situation of affairs at Albany. Recd p Dutchman Express, 25th P. M.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull. Lebanon.

ALBANY, 25th July, 1777.

HONR SIR, — Yours of 23d p Brown gives me pleasure, being the first since I left Lebanon near two months ago. I wrote you the 19th or 20th p one Doctr Eagar who told me he was going direct to Lebanon. He was gone long eno' for you to have received it before yours of 23d; hope it has not miscaried. Another letter I sent three days ago p express going from Genl Schuyler; that will certainly reach you.

Our *little* army are now retired to *Moses* Kill & Snouk

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Kill two or three miles below Fort Edward. All the houses, barracks, stores, &c., att the latter place are burned & destroyed. It seems a maxim with General Schuyler to leave no support to the enemy, as he retires. All is devastation & waste when he leaves; by this means the enemy will not be able to pursue so fast as they could wish. Want of carriages, I am told, will be a great hindrance to their progress; they were not provided it seems from Canada; & I rather think their 2d tour into the Grants was for obtaing means of conveyance by land. The people there I believe were not so complaisant on that head as they expected to find them. The evacuation of Ty I fancy took them (the enemy) as much on surprize as it did the country. It does not appear they were prepared for any further operations att that time. Ten days or a fortnight I fancy will put our people into a scituation to stand. If we can obtain that time from the enemy, & in *that time* we are reinforced from below with 2 or 3,000 Continental troops, I shall *hope* we may make an effectual opposition. But, if otherwise, I will not pretend to insure consequences. I wish General Washington may not continud [*sic*]* in fallacious information respecting this Department. He has been most egregiously deceived. I wish his eyes may be opened to the necessity of a reinforcement this way. 2,000 men can be no great loss to him; it *may be* the saving this part of the country. I wish it may not prove that Genl How is keepg Genl Washington dancing to a phantom below, while the real object is in this quarter. If *we* have no more troops to be depended on, I expect soon to decamp from this place; the consequences of such success to the enemy I need not mention to you.

* Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., was a very rapid writer, and wrote a very legible hand; but he was also very careless, and often left out words, letters, and parts of letters, though it is seldom that his meaning is doubtful. Here he evidently meant to express a wish that General Washington may not depend on fallacious information, but that is not what he wrote. — Eds.

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Two days ago a party of the enemy surprized our advanced pickett, killed 7, & wounded 13, 3 of which are since dead. Ten fine brass field pieces are gone up. I cant say much of the spirits of our people. Those who are *escaped* from Ty with Gen^{ll} S^{t} Clair are much fatigued & worn out, can scarcely be called men. General Nixon has about 1000 fresh men; about 500 were in garrison att Fort George. Besides militia these are the main dependance. One half the militia are gone home, the other half uneasy. I wish General Washington could *see* our scituation; I am sure he would give us a reinforcement. The Lord reigneth; all events are in his hands. This consideration should suppress too anxious thots. I am, with all respect & affection, Hon^{d} Sir,

Your most dutifull son.

Gov^{r} Trumbull. J. Trumbull, Jun^{r}.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO PHILIP SCHUYLER.

Lebanon, 26th July, 1777.

Sir, — Your letter by General Wadsworth of the 19th, & last evening your other of the 21st, are duly recieved.

The evacuation of Ticonderoga and the Mount with the cannon, ordnance stores, ammunition, tents, cloaths, &c., doth violently agitate the minds of all friends to the cause of America. Some cry, Treachery, others Cowardice; all blame. The country are effectually roused; their spirits are not broken; their ardour is inflamed.

When your last came in, letters were prepared for General Washington, to which I have added a P. S. "I have just recieved a requisition from General Schuyler for a reinforcement of one thousand men from this State. I concieve the best we can do may be effected by your (General Washington) ordering Continental troops, who can move forward sooner, and their room supplied with Col^{o} Enos's battalion now in service on the western parts

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of our seacoast, and their station filled by militia, if necessary, which we hope to find otherwise. Col° Enos's battalion is enlisted for the defence of the seacoasts and frontiers of this State and parts adjacent, without expectation of a lengthy march. I shall give orders to our brigadiers of militia to draught and equip men to march on the shortest notice. While this is doing shall wait your approbation of the measure, and be ready to carry the same into execution." The express is gone, and will return with all possible dispatch.

I congratulate you on the capture of Maj^r^ General Prescott, which I trust will procure the releasment of Gen^l^ Lee, and bring on a general exchange of prisoners which we so much wish for.

We have one thing set over against another, that we may find nothing after God. He reigneth and doth all things right. Let us trust Him for our salvation. His judgments are a great deep. His mercies are above the heavens.

I am, with great truth and regard, Sir,

Your obedient, humble servant.

JON^TH^ TRUMBULL.

PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

MOSES CREEK, July 27^th^, 1777.

SIR, — Last evening I was honored with your Excellency's letter of the 22^nd^ inst. I wrote you on the 19^th^ by Gen^l^ Wadsworth, and on the 22^nd^ by express, the latter covered sundry resolutions of a Council of general officers held at Fort Edward on the preceeding day. It is probable that an idea will be entertained in the country below that the army under my command is very respectable in point of numbers, as the militia from four States

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have been called for. Indeed, I was in hopes that we should have been considerably reinforced. The state of the army is this: —

About two thousand seven hundred Continental troops, one third of which is composed of aged men that ought never to have been sent, of boys, or rather children, and negroes that disgrace our arms, — indifferently armed, almost naked, without blankets, circumstances which must necessarily bring on disease.

Militia from the State of Connecticut, — one Major, one Captain, two Lieutenants, two Ensigns, one Adjutant, one Quartermaster, six Serjeants, one Drummer, six sick, and three rank and file fit for duty, the rest, after remaining three or four days, deserted us. Of those from the County of Berkshire in the State of Massachusetts, who consisted of upwards of 1200, half of which were to have remained, somewhat more than two hundred are left, the remainder having also deserted. Of Col° Mosely's regiment from the County of Hampshire in the State of Massachusetts, about ten or twelve are left, the rest having deserted. Of Col° Porter's regiment of the County of Hampshire about two hundred are left. Of the militia of the County of Albany in this State one thousand and fifty-one are left, being forty-six more than half of what were on the ground when it was resolved to let half return to their habitations.

This, Sir, is our force with an enemy much more numerous advancing against us, well appointed, flushed with success, and encreasing by the constant accession of Tories.

It is with great pain that I am drove, to the necessity of remarking that unless the militia of your State and that of the Massachusetts turn out in great numbers, with more spirit and expedition, and behave better when they join us, inevitable ruin must ensue, for although we are resolved to make as obstinate a resistance as such a

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small body can do, yet unless some very unexpected events arise, and we are timely supported by militia, our hopes of being able to prevent Gen[l] Burgoyne from penetrating to Albany are not very great. I must therefore most earnestly request your Excellency to send me at least two thousand militia from your State, and to order them to march with the utmost expedition by the way of Albany, where camp kettles are provided for them.

That torpor, that criminal indifference which is so evident, that want of spirit which so generally prevails, is much more dangerous to us than all the efforts of the enemy. Nor is that jealousy and detraction which so unhappily prevails of small detriment to our cause. Many of the officers of the militia from the County of Hampshire, the priest who accompanied them, and almost all the soldiery, declaimed loudly against me and all the general officers who were at Ticonderoga. Traitors, cowards, and villains are the epithets bestowed upon us. Some accuse me of having, as they say, with traiterous intentions sent too much provision to Ticonderoga, whilst others charge me with having given orders to detain it. Others charge me with having ordered the heavy cannon to be dismounted, and light ones placed in their stead, with a variety of other matters equally false and injurious. In short every art is made use of to destroy that confidence which it is so essential the army should have in its general officers, and this too by people pretending to be friends to the country.

I am, Sir, with great esteem and respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

PH: SCHUYLER.

His Excellency Gov[r] TRUMBULL.

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PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

July 27th, 10 o'clock, A. M.

Sir, — Since writing the within the enemy with all their force are arrived at Fort Edward, and Genl Arnold thinks from their movements they mean to attack us to-day. Let me therefore intreat you to hasten up the militia, that if we should be obliged to retreat we may be supported and make a stand elsewhere.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, hble. servant.

Ph: Schuyler.

His Excely Govr Trumbull.

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull.

State of New York. Kingston, July 27th, 1777.

Sir, — The Council of Safety has directed me to transmit to your Excellency the enclosed extracts of a letter from Major General Schuyler. The condition of the Northern Department is become alarming and critical. The evacuation of Ticonderoga was a very unexpected event, and has been attended with an unhappy influence on our affairs; the people are disgusted, disappointed and alarmed.

The Council are constrained to observe that it is not in their power to afford Genl Schuyler much aid. Five counties of this State are in the possession of the enemy; three others are disunited by malcontents who meditate a revolt and are attempting to avail themselves of the present troubles to advance their interested purposes, insomuch that all order and government has ceased among

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them. Of the remaining six counties, a third part of the militia of three of them, namely Orange, Ulster, and Dutchess, has been in actual service ever since May last and are yet in the field; Westchester has been so harrassed by the incursions of the enemy from New York, that during the last winter and almost ever since, their militia have been obliged to provide for their own defence; a third part of the County of Tryon are ordered to embody without delay; and a considerable proportion of Albany are already marched or marching to the field. Add to this the number of inhabitants constantly employed on the communications, in transportation, &c., &c., and the still greater number who, tempted by prospects of ease or profits, have quitted this invaded State, and sought inglorious quiet among our more peaceful neighbours, and your Excellency will perceive how greatly our strength is exhausted. Heaven has blessed us with a plentifull harvest, and it deserves consideration that other States besides this will be affected by the loss of it.

It is unnecessary to observe to your Excellency that the destruction of this State will bring the horrors of war to the doors of many who now seem idle spectators of it.

We hope the State of Connecticut will on this occasion exert herself in a manner becoming the character she hath hitherto sustained in the scale of American importance, and that New York will not be left unsupported in this day of trial.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

By Order.

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Pres^dt.*

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO PHILIP SCHUYLER.

LEBANON, 1st August, 1777.

SIR, — Last evening at 9 o'clock I recieved from Kingston an extract of your letter of the 24th ult° to the President of the Council of Safety of N. York, with a letter from him requesting the aid of militia from this State.

Eight o'clock this morning I recieved yours of the 27th ult°. Mine of the 26th had not come to your hands, when you wrote the 27th; to that you will please to turn. The express went forward with my request to his Excellency General Washington the same day, and is not yet returned. The 28th I recieved a requisition from Majr General Putnam at Peekskill, in consequence of orders recieved from General Washington, for five hundred militia to join him, assigning the march of General Washington's army for Philadelphia as the reason of this demand. Orders have been given Brigr Genl Silliman accordingly. I have pressed General Washington in a letter of the 28th ult° to send you three or four thousand Continental troops, which might be suddenly thrown up to your quarter to prevent the career of the enemy. This I did knowing such troops much easier got on the ground, and better for the service. I find Majr General Lincoln & Brigr Genl Glover with 1400 troops were arrived at Albany the 28th, unknown to you when you wrote on the 27th. I have put our whole militia in the best posture for defence, and one fourth part of them to be in readiness to march on the shortest notice. I hoped for the return of my express before this, and apprehend it necessary to wait for General Washington's answer. He has sent Continental troops to you, & he will expect me to fulfill my undertaking with him.

I am, with esteem & regard, Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant.

Honble Majr Genl SCHUYLER. J—— T——L.

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PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor of the State, Connecticut.

IN COUNCIL OF SAFETY, Aug. 1, 1777.

SR, — It gives us pain at this critical & alarming season to trouble you with private cases, but it is the duty of this Council at all times to extend their protection to the good subjects of this State. M^r Comfort Sands, our Auditor General, has in behalf of himself, M^r Peter Vandervoort, Colonel Joseph Drake, & M^r Richardson Sands, all subjects of this State, made application to us for the interposition of this Council concerning a quantity of sugars their property detained in the State of Connecticut. From his information their case is as follows. In the month of October & Novem^r last, those gentlemen purchased 80 hogsheads sugar at Providence in the State of Rhode Island, which at the time of the enemy's descent on that Island they transported to the State of Connecticut, with intent to import them by land into this State. Soon after the importation of these sugars into Connecticut, a law was passed in your State to prevent the exportation of West India goods, without a special permit from the Governor. We are further informed by those gentlemen, that some time since they obtained a permit to convey their whole quantity of sugars out of the State of Connecticut, that in consequence of such permit they did export a part of them, & that in attempting to export three hogsheads & one tierce, that quantity was seized by the Sheriff of Hartford for the use of the troops in your State. They further alledge that they have been offer^d for their sugars £3. 6. 0 lawfull money, the price limited by a law of your State, a price which they say is greatly below the first cost. The aforesaid gentlemen are

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all refugees from different parts of this State which are in the hands of the enemy, & those of them who reside in your State cannot be consider^{d} as voluntary residents, & in this view are to all intents & purposes, except that of a temporary allegiance to Connecticut, subjects of this State. We flatter ourselves, that our brethren of Connecticut feel for the calamities of the subjects of this State too sensibly to add to there distress. Be pleased, Sir, to consider that by whatever laws the wisdom of your Govern[ment ?] may think it necessary to bind the proper subjects of your State, great indulgence ought to be allowed to our much distress^{d} & unhappy subjects. Excluded as we are from the benefit of the seaport towns of this State by an unrelenting enemy, who have made New York the seat of war, our sister States afford the only passage for the introduction of foreign necessaries into this State. If therefore, Sir, the laws of your State should be so framed as by their letter to prevent the exportation of those necessaries acquired by our subjects out of your State, we hope you will interpose with your Legislature & endeavour to procure an exemption in favour of the subjects of this State, to the end that the only channel of necessary imports may not be shut up against us.

We are, Sir, with the greatest respect & esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient servants.
By order of the Council.

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Pres^{dt}*.

His Ex^{cy} Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Kingstown, State of New York. President V. Cortlandt, *de* sugars, &c., belong^{s} to Sands, Vandervoort, &c. — liberty to transport them to N. York, 1st August, 1777.

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GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On publick service. His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r. Lebanon. P returning express.

FAIRFIELD, August 2^d, 1[777.]

SR, — As I wrote your Excellency in my last that I intend[ed going] to the westward the next morning, I accordingly went. And pr[oceeded] as far as the Saw-Pitts, and found the guards at the differe[nt] posts in good order, but very badly supplied with flints; but [have] furnished them since with a few from those which I received from your Excellency, which are now almost exhausted. They are an article not to be had this way any where; if tis in your Excellency's power I beg leave to say that I think it is very necessary that a number of flints should be sent into every town on the sea-side, and to all the others if it can be done. Upon your late orders to this brigade to be ready to march at the shortest notice, I found them surpriseingly destitute, but have supplied them with a very few, which was all I could do.

Col° Enos's companies that were ordered this way are at their posts; and all the militia that were on duty are dismissed, except those that were raised by inlistment to serve through the season, who are retained still in service. Those in this town I wrote your Excellency about in mine of the 22^d. Those at Stanford are only 1 Serj^t, 1 Corporal & 13 privates w[ho] are annexed to Cap^t Bradley's com-

* Gold Selleck Silliman was born in Fairfield, Conn., May 7, 1732, and graduated at Yale College in 1752. He was educated as a lawyer, and for a time held the office of county attorney under the Crown. Becoming interested in military affairs, he was made colonel of cavalry and afterward a brigadier-general. His principal service was in the defence of the southwestern part of Connecticut. In May, 1779, he was taken prisoner in his own house by the British, and carried to Long Island, where he remained on parole for about a year. He was finally exchanged for Judge Thomas Jones. He died in Fairfield July 21, 1790. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. v. p. 527; Jones's History of New York during the Revolutionary War, vol. ii. p. 303; Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 294–296. — EDS.

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pany till further orders. [The] numbers of the troops posted in the different towns are sma[ll;] but I omit the numbers as Col° Enos will now be able to ma[ke] his return. Beside these there are at Stratford two small guards, one consisting of 1 Leiu^{t}, 2 Serj^{ts}, 1 Corp^{l}, 1 Fifer & 17 Privates; the other consists of 1 Ensign, 1 Serj^{t}, 1 Corp^{l}, 13 Privates raised & stationed there by Act of Assembly passed in Decem^{r} last. There are also a few men belonging to the train in Fairfield, Norwalk and Stanford, perhaps about 50 in the whole (the returns are at present mislaid); from these hints your Excellency will be able to see what number of men there is on duty in this County, including those belonging properly to Col° Enos's battalion.

At Stanford on my return from the westward, I found some of the soldiers (those belonging to the train in particular) that mutinied and totally refused to do their duty; because that by a late order of your Excellency & Councill of Safety, their allowance of provisions was reduced lower than the Continental establishment. They urged that by the standing law of this State passed in December they were entitled to the same pay & rations as the Continental troops, and refused their duty on that account. I told them that if they thought themselves agreived they took the wrong way to obtain releif; they ought to do their duty quietly, and make their representation to your Excellency & Councill; or if they desired it I would do it for them. But told them that in the mean time I must insist upon it, that every man should quietly return to his duty; and told them that if they choose to do it I should expect to know it by 9 that evening, otherwise I should think it my duty in the morning to take proper measures to oblige them to do it. The same evening they sent to let me know that they would all quietly do their duty, and desired that I would make this representation for them. I dont know what the reasons may be for this

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reduction of the allowance of provisions. I presume we have provisions plenty, as I observe that the Vineyard boats go frequently from these parts loaded with provision, without res[traint.] I have heard that there is now an embargo in this State, but [cannot] learn whether tis so or not. We have neither Act of Assembly [nor] Proclamation in this part of the State about it. If it can [be done] I could wish the soldiers might have their usual allowance, as I [suppose] it will be difficult to keep them quiet without it.

The soldiers this way have no salt to use with their fresh p[rovi]sions, and in my tour to the Westward last week I engaged some of the salt-makers to supply them at the rate of 36/ p bushel. But Col° Davenport told me afterward that this State had salt of their own, that did not cost more than 12/ p bush[l] and advised me to borrow of the Continental Commissaries until it could be obtained, which I afterward did; and should be glad that your Excellency would direct some to be sent forward for the use of the soldiery and to enable me to repay what is borrowed.

Three deserters from the enemy at Huntington have come in this week, who say that at Huntington they have 300 men, and at Setauket directly opposite to my house the enemy [have] about 250, and that they have made store houses of, and are [rais]ing fortifications around the meeting houses in those [places]; they further say that the fleet from New York sailed ou[t of] the Hook last week. This account I also had last week [from] one of our own soldiers, who says that last week on M[onday] he was at the south side of the Island opposite to Jamaica, and saw the British fleet without the Hook, to the number of upward of 100 sail, make sail & stand to the eastward and that on the Thursday night following he made his escape.

Since I began this I have rec[d] your Excellency's orders

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of the 30th ult, and shall endeavour to execute them in every particular according to my best ability.

I observe your Excellency says no Brigade Majors are yet appointed and that I must procure some person to assist me to collect the returns, &c. I beg leave to observe to your Excellency, that every Major General is always esteemed to have a right to appoint his own Aid De Camp, a Brigadier his own Brigade Major, and every Colo his Adjutant, and I never heard that this right was ever contested, but in a single instance, and that was where an Adjutant General took a particular pleasure in disobliging gentlemen of note from a particular part of the contiment. I observe our Act of Assembly orders that Colonels may appoint their Adjutants. This I conceive to be immaterial, as they have the right to do it without the Act. Last year I appointed my own Adjut^{t} for my regim^{t}; and afterward when I had the honour to command a brigade, I appointed my own Brigade Major. Upon this ground when I found myself under a necessity of the assistance of one this spring, I appointed one who has been in service ever since, himself & horse. And it would have been impossible for me to have done without, nor had I the least suspicion of my right to do it. I hope when your Excellency adverts to the subject that you will not think it wrong.

I am, most respectfully,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, hum. s^{t}.

G. Selleck Silliman.

His Excellency Gov^{r} Trumbull.

P. S. Your Excellency will observe by the date of this that it is not possible to [*torn*] return on the 1st of August. I have long since called for returns on the 1st May [*torn*] two months after, but have never yet [*torn*] I believe [*torn*] to the officers [*torn*] to the tumultuo [*torn*].

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P. S. August 2d, 8 o'clock, P. M.

SIR, — Since writeing the foregoing a flag of truce arrived from New York, and brought in Capt Bebee of Litchfield, & Lt. Loreing of Boston, who were taken at Fort Washington, and one master of a vessel and four seamen who have been exchanged.

Capt Beebee tells me he came out of New York on Thursday last, and says the enemy's fleet really went out at the Hook the begining of last week; and that there did not when he came away appear to be any preparation for going up the North-River, nor were there but few shiping then at N. York. He says further that the principal part of the troops the enemy left behind them are at King's Bridge commanded by General Clinton. Lt Loreing says that by the best account he could get he takes it that the whole of the troops at King's Bridge and N. York are about 4,000. I have begged the last N. York paper of Capt Beebee, in order to send it to your Excellency, together with two others of earlier date, as I suppose you dont get them often. In the last you will see an account that their fleet were got near the mouth of the Delaware. You will also see the disagreable news that Commodore Manly is a prisoner. On the whole I am inclined to believe that the enemy have really gone away to attempt the conquest of Philadelphia, but shall observe your directions to be in readiness for the worst as far as tis in our power, and am, as before,

Your Excellency's most obedt & most humo servt.

G. SELLECK SILLIMAN.

Indorsed: Aug. 2, 1777. Brigr Genll Silliman. Came to hand ye 4th, *de* flints.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Public Service. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. Albany, 6th Augt, J. Trumbull, Junr.

ALBANY, 6th Augst, 1777.

HONd SIR, — It is now more than a week since my last to you p Genl Schuyler's express. Have had no opportunity since that. My last I think left our army att Moses Creek; by two steps they have now arrived att *Still Water*, 24 miles from this town. *Here*, I believe they really design to make a *stand*, it being the place they have for some time past had in view. Their late retreats has been a political movement. I begin to doubt whether the enemy will put themselves into the *trap*. Genl Lincoln is gone over to the *Grants*, to take the cōmand of a body of militia collecting there to Colo Warner; 't is said their number is more than 3,000, & increasing. The enemy begin to cast a jealous eye on this collection. Our numbers with Genl Schuyler are about 6,000, including militia; the Continental troops rising of 4,000 & these recovering their spirits, & beginning to shake off their panic. The Indians have spread great terror by laying in wait, surprizing & scalps & otherways inhumanly butchering unhappy straglers. Some innocent families & individuals have undoubtedly suffered by Tories in the garb of savages, but providentially a great proportion of them who have suffered in their own houses & about their houses have been Tories themselves. This spreads a general panic among that class of animals, who begin to think their is no faith in Master Burgoyne, nor any safety in his protection. Some tis said have even been found dead with *protection* in their hands. Govr Skeen has his house *ornamented* with scalps. Some of our prisoners have been tormented in the most shocks manner (it is said) in Skeen's presence; some burnt, others dismem-

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bered of their hands, &c. Their cruelties are too horrid to dwell upon.

Twelve Indians are this day come to town, eight *Cagnawagas* & 4 Oneidas, with *good intentions* I fancy. The Oneidas continue fast friends; they are going on to General Schuyler; say that the enemy consist of about 6,000, Indians & Canadians included, — of the two latter about 200 each. The *Cagnawagas* had been invited, but refused join^{g}. They also say that *Sir John's* force consists of about 400 *red coat* soldiers, 200 Indians & 200 Tories, &c., & that they hope Fort Stanwix will not run away as Tyconderoga did, without fight^{g}, &c. We are just informed that a firing of cannon was heard att Fort Stanwix on Sunday last. An express comes down with the acc^{o} from German Flatts, & says that the militia are all in motion, 700 of whom were collected under General Herkeman when he left. Col^{o} Van Schaick went from this town with a few Continental troops yesterday; when he arrives the N^{o} of Continental troops in the western quarter will be about 8, or 900. Fort Stanwix is a good scituation; the works not compleated; they have 12 peices cannon of smaller size, none more than 12^{ves}, pretty well provided with artillery stores; not so well with provisions as I could wish; the garrison has good officers & men who are determined to *fight*. I have hopes of them.

I cant learn from the northward that Burgoyne advances much with his main body. We have been chiefly annoyd by flying parties. By the best intelligence I can obtain I dont conceive their numbers to be more than 6, or 7,000 in the whole. All seem to agree upon 200 Indians, & not more. [*torn*] men only are said to be left in Ty & Mount Independance. The fleet protects that post. The scenes of distress with the poor inhabitants flying from their farms & habitations are truly moving; their crops of wheat & corn are amazing — all destroyed or left; & many of the poor people nothing to subsist

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upon. The public must supply them provisions. May Divine Providence protect N. England from these savage depredations! but why? I hope in Divine Mercy.

I am, Hon^{d} Sir, your dutifull son.

J. TRUMBULL, JUN^{R}.

Indorsed: Jonth Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Albany, 6th August, 1777. *De* Motions of the Army & Enemy. *De* fort Stanwix, &c.

HORATIO GATES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, August 6th, 1777.

SIR, — I am directed by the most Hon^{ble} the Congress of the United States to apply to the executive power of the State of Connecticut for a reinforcement of seven hundred and fifty militia to be immediately sent to the headquarters of the northern army. The critical situation of public affairs renders it unnecessary for me to urge your patriotic State to the most expeditious compliance with this requisition. I hope it will be sufficient to say that the northern army, if timely reinforced, may by the blessing of Divine Providence obtain a victory over our implacable enemies, and prevent that ravage and misery, with the terror of which they vainly hope to awe the eastern States into unconditionable submission. Confident, Sir, of your zeal and attachment to the common cause, I rest assured of your exerting your best endeavours to serve your devoted country.

I am, Sir, with great respect,

Your Excellency's obedient and hble. servant.

HORATIO GATES.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

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PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, August 8th, 1777.

SIR, — Your letter of the 1st of August was delivered to me on my way to this place. I am extremely sorry that you have taken a measure which I am sure will not procure me a single man from General Washington, for he has long since advised me that he could not spare one, and that I must expect no farther reinforcement from him, a measure which I hope is the occasion that none of your militia have yet joined us. I wish it may be remembered that I have made early & repeated application for assistance; that I have had only about one hundred from your State, and these deserted a few days after their arrival. I greatly apprehend that assistance from the eastern quarter will come too late. Perhaps it may not, if no delay is made in forwarding the militia. Let me therefore intreat you not to lose a moment in so necessary a business, on which the salvation of a country depends. That General Glover's brigade was on the way to me when I wrote on the 27th I well knew, although you suppose I did not. I wish he had brought any thing like fourteen hundred men with him. General Lincoln brought his aid de camps and two light horsemen.

The militia from Berkshire and Hampshire counties will leave me in four or five days. Notwithstanding the weak condition we are in, Colo Long's regiment from New Hampshire, who were enlisted for a twelve month and whose time expired yesterday, marched off to a man, nor could a bounty of twenty dollars prevail on one of them to stay untill the first of December. Neither the one or the other evince that they have much regard for their country. I am this moment advised by express that Genl Heirkemer, who marched with the militia of Tryon County

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to reinforce Fort Schuyler, was attacked on his march near the Fort, that he is killed, and the militia cut to pieces. That county also cries to me for assistance. I wish I had it to afford them.

I am, Sir, with esteem & regard,

Your Excellency's most obedient, hble. servant.

PH: SCHUYLER.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Public Service. His Excellency Governor Trumbull. Lebanon. Albany, 8^th^ Aug^t^. J. Trumbull, J^r^.

ALBANY, 8^th^ Aug^st^, 1777.

HON^D^ SIR, — As usual I have only a moment's notice of the express going off. I wrote you two days ago p M^r^ Larrabee going to Windham; not much transpired since that is material, unless another advance *backwards* of our army may prove so. Tis now said that Still Water is not *good* ground to stand upon; another retreat therefore must be made to *better* place. I think our Generals seem very nice in their choice of ground. I hope they may be suited e'er long. It seems very odd that our retreat^s^ is so rapid that we can scarcely keep within hear^s^ of the enemy, or even know where they are. All may be for the best. I could wish, however, that I could see a disposition to *stand*. I fear this will not be the case untill we have a change of some officers. Our people have lost their spirits, & I fear will not recover them untill they have some person in whom they can replace their confidence. Is it possible Congress knows our scituation? & leaves us to our own fortune still? To add to our misfortunes, sickness & disease is preying upon our army. Doct^r^ Potts just shew me a letter in which he is informed that what from disease &

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other causes our army is reduced to not more than 4,000. I understand Gen^{n} Lincoln is ordered to join General Schuyler.

While writing I am told that General Herkerman with the militia at the westward has had a smart skirmish with a party of the enemy (Tories & Indians) at Fort Dayton, German Flatts; that the enemy were drove with loss on both sides. General Herkemar is himself wounded, Col^{o} Fisher killed & several others. Particulars are not ascertained; 'tis some consolation that our people will fight at some place. I dare say our northern lads would fight also, if they might *stand* long eno' to collect their spirits a little, & might be indulged with comanders in whom they can repose confidence. The *effect* is the same, whether their prejudices are well or ill founded Adieu, Hon^{d} Sir,

Your dutifull son,

J. TRUMBULL, JUN^{r}.

Are we to have no regular post rider this way? tis surprizing we have not. Is not our Department of importance eno' to bear the *expence* of regular intelligence.

Indorsed: Jonth Trumbull, Esq, Albany, 8th August, 1777. *De* Retreat^{s} Army. The Enemy not heard of. News from Westward, Gen^{l} Herkemer's Skirmish.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO PHILIP SCHUYLER.

LEBANON, 9th August, 1777.

SIR, — I this moment recieved your letter of the 6th inst. Since my last I recieved General Washington's letter to Maj^{r} Gen^{l} Putnam of the 1st instant, requesting effectual assistance to repel the enemy at Peekskill, to prevent their passing the Highlands, and to apply to me, which he did. I have given orders for three thousand men to march thither. I trust many of them are arrived before this time, and the rest will be soon on the ground for their aid.

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I wrote early to Massachusetts and New Hampshire to send you succours, pressing its necessity. From the former I recieved a letter last evening, informing that they were sending two thousand. These two States lie most convenient to send for your assistance; this to Peekskill. I hope they will lose no time. I think we have not failed in a service, equally necessary, to prevent the junction of the enemy's two armies.

I am, with truth & regard, Sir,
Your most obedient, hble. servant.
J—— T——L.

Hon^ble^ Maj^r^ Gen^l^ SCHUYLER.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

ALBANY, 11^th^ Aug^st^, Monday Eve^g^.

HON^D^ SIR, — I have the pleasure of yours p M. Brown. I am very sorry I have it not in my power to give you intelligence to your wishes. Our run of misfortunes seems not yet to be att an end; sorry I am to say, I see but little prospect, from all I learn, to apprehend a speedy alteration. I rather fear a greater increase. Our army continues retreat^g^; a depression of spirits hangs upon them, which seems to be comunicated to the whole country, & this increasing from an apprehension that very little if any support is like to be given from N. England. We hear of almost *none* yet in motion. Allowances are made for the apprehensions on acc^o^ of the *Generals* comand^g^; they have flattered themselves, however, that their resentments would not by N. Eng^d^ men be suffered to carry them to such lengths as to make them neglect their *own* safety, — however contented they might think them under some heavy strokes on this country. An idea begins to take that *languor* & *supineness* prevails, that every one is for sitt^g^ att home

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& wait^{g} the approach of the enemy at his own door, or fondly thinks that danger is still att a distance. I wish there was not too much appearance of this.

It must be known e'er this that the Generals are ordered to head quarters, that Congress are tak^{g} measures for an enquiry. Now then is the time to step forth, & shew our brethren that our excuses have not been meer pretences. The necessity of speedy & large reinforcements is beyond expression great. I wish they may not come too late. *This town* is just falling; if the army makes one more move towards it all is lost. It is probable they *will* move to-morrow; no place between this & Still Water where they even can scarcely *stop* with any hope of stand^{g} against an approach^{g} enemy. I gave you a stating of numbers in my last. No increase since then; but a great diminution by sickness & com^{g} off of militia. Is it possible our scituation is known, or is it not attended to? I am almost inclined to think that a *penetration* from this quarter & possession of all this part of the country, which will be the case as soon as Burgoyne comes to this city, will be of more serious consequences to the United States than even How's obtain^{g} the city of Philadelphia with its surround^{g} country. The consequences of the *Indian incursions* will be most shock^{g}, if not fatal to the whole. N. England has almost lost the idea of such troubles; but, this country gone, they will soon have a most terrible recognition of those horrid scenes. If *200* Indians now strike terror & dismay not only on the inhabitants but into a whole army, what must be the effect when whole western tribes are let down without restraint. I am shocked, I am surprized, I am astonished att the drowsy supineness & inertion of my countrymen. Certainly it is better to keep danger at a distance than combat it att our own doors. I will say no more; you 'll think I am *too sensible* of the *nearness* of danger.

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Our last accounts leave Philadelphia Tuesday last. They were then in great perplexity about the enemy's movements. General Washington in Phil[a]; his army att German Town; General Sullivan tend[s] towards N. River. I sometimes fear M[r] How is only amusing in front, while the *back door* is left wide open for M[r] Burgoyne's unmolested entry.

I gave you in my last a broken acc[o] of an advantage gained westward over the enemy att *German Flatts*. It is not so well as first related, tho it is very good; our men behaved extreamly well. General Herkemer with 700 militia of Tryon County marched for the relief of Fort Stanwix; 3 or 4 miles on this side he was waylayed by the enemy, who gave him a heavy fire. He made a good disposition for attack & defence; some of the militia failed him; others remained very firm, tis said for 6 hours. A bloody battle insued; the militia have suffered much, so have the enemy. Of the latter, Maj[r] Watts (brother in law to S[r] John) is dead; W[m] Johnson (a famous Indian, natural son of S[r] W[m]) is killed; also Jos. Brant, (the famous Indian incendiary). A brother of General Herkemer is also among the dead (a Tory) & many others, some say 50 Indians. Of ours some valuable officers & principal men & Comittee of Tryon County are dead; the General, wounded soon in the action, was placed on a stump, where he sat during the whole, with a pistol in one hand & sword in the other, giving his orders & comand[s] with great spirit & bravery, his wounds stream[s] with blood — a noble example. During the action a *letter* was *stolen* into the Fort, in consequence of which 200 of the garrison comanded by Lieu[t] Col[o] Willet sallied on the enemy, drove one part of their encampment, beat a reinforcement sent to *their* support, & returned into the Fort laden with spoils from their baggage, burn[s] & destroy[s] what they could not carry,— the latter consist[s] of tents, provisions, &c. &c., & many of

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the enemy dead on the field. The person who went into Fort with the letter is returned, says Col° Gansevoort is determined to hold out to the last & will eat the leather of his shoes before he gives up. The militia were obliged to retire; the fort is still invested. A reinforcement gone up about six days ago will I hope reanimate the militia to join once more on another attempt. 'Tis said they would turn out as yesterday. I hope much from that garrison. I think M^r^ Burgoyne's approach must be regulated in some measure by good or ill success of that enterprize.

The country about is in a distressed scituation; the inhabitants flock^s^ in, leav^s^ their fine crops & every thing almost behind, but their families & children. Such a scene I never saw. Distress is in every corner. Indians mixed with Tories carrying terror in every quarter, almost as low as this city. The next *move* of the retreat^s^ army will bring *them* around if not into town.

The news yesterday of the new comanders gave some animation, but all seem almost purswaded it is too late to stop M. Burgoyne from reach^s^ this place. Some special interposition, *I think*, must take place, or this must be the event. A flying army, dispirited troops, confused, undisciplined soldiers, unanimated officers, no reinforcements — afford a gloomy prospect.

12^th^ *in morn^g^*. Nothing material of news since last evening. Gen^ll^ Lincoln has been eastward, is ordered over, will take the comand, & Gen^ll^ Schuyler & S^t^ Clair repair to head quarters.

I inclose a letter to Br° Jack. I send it open, contains a return of the garrison of Ty. You 'll please after inspection to seal & send it forward. I wrote you twice last week; have you received?

Your most dutifull son.

[*No Signature.*]

Indorsed by the Governor: 11^th^ Aug^t^, 1777. Jon Trumbull, Jun^r^.

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PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

STILLWATER, August 13th, 1777.

SIR, — Your letter of the 9th inst. was delivered me between ten and eleven o'clock last night.

I am extremely sorry that I have it in my power to remark that every answer of your Excellency to my repeated applications for assistance from your State has been so worded as to convey ideas that no aid was intended to be sent us. I differ, Sir, very widely in opinion with you that the reinforcement sent to Peekskill is equally necessary to prevent the junction of the enemy's two armies, as if it had been sent here. General Washington is in march to Hudson's River, and will probably reach it before the enemy can attempt to penetrate from New York.

General Burgoyne is advancing towards us with an army already greatly superior to what we have here, and daily encreasing; and the moment he arrives at Albany his numbers will in all probability double. Our whole Continental force here does not exceed three thousand four hundred effective rank and file. We have not forty militia on the ground. Those from Massachusetts having left us to a man, and instead of two thousand coming from that State, Mr President Sever writes me, that orders had been issued "for the march of one sixth part of six regiments in the County of Worcester, and one in the County of Middlesex." Such is the situation in which this army and this part of the unhappy State of New York is left. It shall, however, not be said that I have been wanting in my application, and I therefore renew my request for two thousand militia from your State to march without a moment's delay.

I am, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient, hble. servant.

His Excellency JONTH TRUMBULL. PH: SCHUYLER.

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO PHILIP SCHUYLER.

HARTFORD, 16th August, 1777.

SIR, — Yours of the 13th is recieved this minute. It is surprising that the Continental troops are reduced to three thousand four hundred effectives. Nixon's and Glover's brigades, we were informed, amounted to 2,400. What is become of the whole garrison that were at Ty—— &c.? We have sent three thousand or thereabouts to Peekskill, on the earnest requests of Generals Washington and Putnam, when the alarm came from that quarter of the return of the fleet.

The Assembly have ordered one half of three regiments of troops of horse to go on directly for Albany, and a regiment of 728 men to be filled and marched to that place, and aid and assist the Continental army. The unexpected events at the northward have had an unhappy influence to render it difficult to send aid from hence to that quarter. Our Assembly are ready to afford their strength and assistance for the defence of this and our neighbour States. Shall rejoice to see our army freed from their panic, and that the aids from the eastern States and this may arrive in season to animate the army. We have an extended seacoast. The State of Rhode Island rely on us for assistance. New York may depend on our exertions for them. A further consideration will be had of your requisition. Shall expect information by Mr Brown, my returning express.

I am, with great truth & regard, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

J—— T——L.

Majr General SCHUYLER, or in his absence The Commanr in Chief in the Northn Department.

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PAUL SPOONER* TO OLIVER WOLCOTT.

STATE OF VERMONT } IN COUNCIL OF SAFETY. BENINGTON, Aug. 16, 1777.

DEAR GENERAL, — I am directed by the Council to congratulate your Honour on the success of the American arms in an action which happened in the close of the 16 instant, about seven miles from this place, at a place called Wallomsback, consisting of between three and four thousand (by the best intelligence) of the enemy and about two thousand composed of militia from N. Hamshire, Berkshire County, part of Col. Warner's regiment of continental troops, four companys of rangers and the militia of this State, under the command of the brave Brigadier General John Stark of N. Hamshire. In the action the enemy were driven from their batteries, leaving three field peices behind them, one six and two three pounders (brass). We pursued the enemy's rear untill they were reinforced by two regiments of fresh troops, with which they renewed their attack; and after an obstinate resistance of two hours, the enemy were obliged to give ground, leaving behind them one 9 pound brass cannon and 60 British and French horses; night

* Not much is known of the personal history of Dr. Paul Spooner, who was a conspicuous figure in the annals of Vermont, and who "is believed to have been well educated, and to have had a good professional reputation." He was a member of a convention called to condemn the Boston Port Bill, a member and acting secretary of the Vermont Council of Safety, a delegate to Congress, a member of the Council under the State Constitution, Lieutenant Governor, and a Judge of the Supreme Court, besides holding other offices of lesser importance. If an anecdote related in the History of Eastern Vermont may be credited, he was held in a somewhat peculiar respect by one at least of his contemporaries. "On one occasion," we are told, "the Rev. Elisha Hutchinson, the first minister of Pomfret, Vermont, was preaching a sermon at Hartland, in a private house, when Mr. Spooner entered the room. Pausing in the midst of his discourse the reverend minister informed his audience that he had 'got about half through' his sermon, but as Governor Spooner had come to hear it, he would begin it again. Then turning to a woman who sat near him, he said, 'My good woman, get out of that chair, and let Governor Spooner have a seat, if you please.' Mr. Spooner was accommodated, and Mr. Hutchinson repeated the first part of the sermon, much to the edification, it is supposed, of those who had already heard it." See Vermont Records, vol. i. p. 129; B. H. Hall's History of Eastern Vermont, pp. 698, 699; Hiland Hall's Early History of Vermont, p. 469. — EDS.

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coming on oblidged our troops to stop their further pursuit, as the darkness would have rendered their march hazardus. The loss on our side is computed at less than thirty, the wounded are so scattered in different houses in this vicinity that their number is not known. The enemy's loss as far as it is at present known is as follows—

Killed in the field	200	Canadian officers	2
Wounded come to hand	100	Surgeons	6
L[t] Colonel, since dead	1	Chaplan	1
Major	1	Aid de Camp	1
Captains	7		
Lewtenants	14	Amongst the killed was one M[r]	
Ensigns	4	Foster, Col Commandant of the	
Cornets	2	Tories, and a number more of	
Judge Advocate	1	the principal officers of that	
Barron	1	core of mercenaries.	

Rank and file	British	37
	Hessians	396
	Canadians	32
	Tories	155

from the north part of the State of N. York, except about 30 belonging to this State. N. B. By a letter of the enemys which fell into our hands we learn that 30 rank and file and two Indian chiefs were killed by a scouting party of ours the day before, which is not enclosed in the above account. A number of prisoners have since been brought in, which makes the number of rank and file amount to about seven hundred.

Signed by order of Council.

PAUL SPOONER, *Dep[ty] Secretary.*

To Gen[l] OLIVER WOLCOTT.

Copy.

Indorsed: 16[th] Aug[st], 1777. Copy of letter from Paul Spooner, Esq., Bennington; *de* fight, &c., enclosed from Brigad[r] Ol. Wolcott.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

ALBANY, 16th Augst, 1777.

HONr SIR, — Inclosed I send you a narration of occurrances att Fort Stanwix since the enemy's approach there, taken from Lieut Colo Marinus Willet, an officer of great merit & principally concerned in those transactions; also a little sketch of the Fort & its capability for defence; with the enemy's strength against it. The Colo gives a relation of General Herkerman's action much as we had heard before & as I have heretofore comunicated to you. He thinks the enemy's total loss in both attacks is *att least* three hundred dead, great part of which loss has fallen on the Indians, who in consequence are much disquieted. Our loss in killed, wounded, & missing is about 160. Had the *whole* of the militia stood firm, in all probability General Herkerman would have given the enemy a total overthrow. However as it is, the whole of the affair has manifested a very signal interposition of Divine Providence in our favour, — the arrival of the *boats* with stores, amunition, &c., the very evening that the enemy approiched & the safe conducting them into the Fort is not the *least* mark of Providential care.

General Arnold, with one small brigade, is gone as reinforcement to the westward, are now on their march. I still continue to hope much from the westward.

Genll Burgoyne we hear is maks an expedition eastward, to Bennington. Genll Fraser comands with 1,500 men. Genll Lincoln is gone to comand our forces collected in that quarter to oppose him. Scenes of operation multiply fast; none of our *eastern* brethren yet come in.

A small expedition formed to disperse a collection of Tories maks up att Schoharry, about thirty six miles from this town, has occasioned the loss of one light horseman

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killed & three wounded. The Tories, I hear, were dispersed, not routed; are again collected; have lost only one Indian, killed. A reinforcement to our small party is requested. This *bunch* of Tories is headed by a Cap^{t} M^{c}Donald, who has in his collection a number of *Scotch Pladdies* to join him, a *Pladdie leader*.

17th *at evening*. M^{r} Brown is arrived with yours of 15th, am rejoiced to hear a prospect of some relief from Connecticut. Gen^{ll} Burgoyne must be excessive in goodness, if he admits a delay, so that they can arrive before this city is gone. Our troops have not yet found any ground to *stand* on; they are com^{g} & will be this night all *safe* arrived att *Half Moon*, New City, & an island in the river whose south end is almost in sight of this town. How long they may rest their running limbs in this scituation I know not; however, this I know, that the last remove from Still Water seems to people here almost as disagreable as the evacuation of Ty, as it has been generally esteemed almost the only ground proper for a stand between Fort Edward & this place; & at this place every one knows there is no abiding an approach of an enemy without imense superiority. General Gates is not yet arrived; he has touched att the Highlands to consult Gov^{r} Clinton; will probably be here in a day or two. He is much needed & much wished for. All is confusion & disorder with the army & will be so till *his* arrival. There is scarcely the appearance of *discipline*. To your question — "where are the enemy?" I scarcely know what to reply. Our army has almost run them out of hearing. I cannot possitively say there are any of the enemy advanced further than *Fort Millar;* there main body *I believe* to be att *Fort Edward* & gett^{g} on to that post. Their *numbers* will probably be 6,000 on this side the lakes, including Tories, Indians, &c. What accession of strength the last movement of our army will give them, is uncertain. A large extent of country is laid

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open by this maneuvre, & *all* men are not contented to leave their property when they think the whole country seems likely to *fall*. This last move has also greatly exposed the *western* country to the irruptions of the enemy, & will, unless Heaven remarkably favours our arms in that quarter, greatly discourage *our friends* in those parts. Our accounts from the westward, since what is inclosed, are not very particular or minute. A son of Butler, with a party consist^{s} of 14 whites & 14 Indians, coming *among the inhabitants* att German Flatts, under the *pretence of a flagg*, have been secured by the Comittee of the place & delivered over to Col^{o} Wesson, comand^{g} Fort Dayton. Their real errand was a design to seduce the people by throw^{g} proclamations from Gen^{ll} S^{t} Ledger among them, of similar import of Burgoyne's, also letters & addresses from Sir John, Butler, & Closs. 'Tis observable that in the last letters the names of Sir John & Closs are both written with one hand, — not Sir John's. Tis tho't *his* hand will write no more. Our western prospect is at present very promising. Gen^{ll} Arnold will probably be att the Flatts tomorrow. I hope by the next return of Brown to give you a pleas^{g} account from that quarter. We are in hourly expectations of some important event turn^{g} up in the Grants; some skirmish^{g} has happened. Our reports of numbers there are not possitive; we are told General Starks has 3,000. This, I suppose, includes Warner. The militia of the neighbour^{g} towns about Bennington have turned out with great alacrity & seeming spirit. General Lincoln is moved this day, with about 5 or 600 from our little army, to fall in & cooperate with Starks. This week, I fancy, is big with important events; may God direct their issue in our favour. You ask the numbers of our army. It is almost impossible to ascertain them; they are really very small, — so small that there is a real necessity of retreating, in case the enemy approach, untill they can be reinforced.

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The militia are almost all gone off; the main body is reduced by send^{g} off parties both east & west. It is *my opinion* that M^{r} Burgoyne does not advance much farther untill he knows the event of his western & eastwern enterprizes. The good or ill success of those will mark the fate of this city & the whole country about it.

We hear little or nothing of much import from Massachusetts. They are we hear *resolving*, not *effecting* much, I believe as yet. I wish a fatal lethargy may not have reached their vitals; their limbs I am pretty well assured are much affected. It is of the last importance to yourselves as well as for our safety to hasten on whatever troops you intend for us with the utmost expedition.

18th *in morn^{g}*. This moment am informed by letter from Bennington that General Starks with his body & Col^{o} Simonds' militia had attacked the enemy, forced their little lines, & drove them one mile; taken upwards of 400 prisoners who are safe in Bennington. The killed on both sides considerable, not ascertained; four brass field peices were taken. General Starks pursued, & was in action when the express came off. The enemy were reinforced. May God continue his goodness, & make us truly gratefull in his mercy. I am, Hon^{d} Sir,

Your most dutifull son.

JON^{A} TRUMBULL, JUN^{R}.

BENJAMIN LINCOLN TO PHILIP SCHUYLER.*

BENNINGTON, Aug^{t} 18th, 1777.

DEAR GENERAL, — The late signal success of a body of about two thousand troops, mostly militia under the command of Brigadier General Stark, in this part of the country, on the 16th instant, over a party of about fifteen hundred of the enemy who came out with a manifest

* Printed from a copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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design to possess themselves of this town (as will appear by the enclosed), is an event happy and important. Our troops behaved in a very brave and heroic manner; they pushed the enemy from one work to another, thrown up on advantageous ground, and from different posts with spirit and fortitude, untill they gained a compleat victory over them. The following is the best list I have been able to obtain of the prisoners, their killed and wounded, 1 Lieu[t] Colonel, 1 Major, 5 Captains, 12 Lieutenants, 4 Ensigns, 2 Cornets, 1 Judge Advocate, 1 Baron, 2 Canadian officers, and 151 Tories taken. The number of wounded fallen into our hands, exclusive of the above, are about eighty. The number of their slain has not yet been ascertained, as they fought on y[e] retreat for several miles in a wood, but supposed to be about 200. Their artillery which consisted of four brass field pieces, with a considerable quantity of baggage, likewise fell into our hands. We have heard nothing of Burgoyne or his army for two days past. The prisoners are sent into Massachusetts Bay, except the Tories; shall wait your direction respecting them, as most of them belong to the State of New York. We have about 2,000 at and near this place.

I am, dear General, with respect & esteem,

Your very hble. servant,

Maj[r] Gen[l] SCHUYLER. B. LINCOLN.

CHARLES BURRALL* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Gov[r] Trumbull of Lebanon, now at Hartford, or, if he is not at Hartford, to Gov[r] Griswold or General Oliver Wolcott.

SIR, — I have just rec[d] by express the inteligence, of which the inclos[d] is a copy; the matter appear[d] doubtfull

* Col. Charles Burrall was born at Simsbury, Conn., Feb. 21, 1720, Old Style, and died at Canaan, Oct. 7, 1803. Besides holding the rank of Colonel in the Connecticut militia, he filled numerous offices in civil life, and acquired considerable wealth and influence. See Hinman's Catalogue of Early Puritan Settlers of Connecticut, pp. 418–420. — EDS.

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to me whether I had better order my regt to Benington or not on acct of the distance, supposing that the affair would be decided before we could possibly get there; but not knowing but that the enemy would gain the battle, in which case help would be wanted, & chusing rather at such a crisis to be too forward than too backward, I have & am now sending orders to as many of my regt as can be equipd, to march on horsback with the utmost speed towards Benington, & have sent you by express inclosd intelegence, together with my intended movement that way, for your Excellency's approbation or orders. I expect inteligence before we can march far, and shall conduct myself accordingly and continue or discontinue our march as shall appear best on getting the inteligence, until I receive your Excellency's orders. Genl Wolcott I suppose is now at Hartford with you. I therefore thought best to send directly to Hartford by express to your Excellency, &c., &c. I am with the greatest respect your Excellency's most obedient & humble servant,

CHARLES BURRALL.

CANAAN, Augt 18th, 4 o'clock, A.M.

To his Excellency Govr Trumbull of Lebanon, now at Hartford.

Indorsed: Colo Chs Burrell, *de* Vermont fight, &c.

CHARLES BURRALL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Govr Trumbull of Lebanon. Now at Hartford. On publick service.

SIR, — I have this moment returnd from Pittsfield, having, since mine of the 18th by express to your Excellency, collected and marchd about 400 of my regt towards Benington as far as Pittsfield, where I met Major Thodore Sedgwick with verbal orders from Genl Lincoln to stop all the militias that were on the road for Benington. The particalars of the Benington alarm, which was the occa-

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sion of our march, I have not fully collectd, but it is nearly this. About 1,200 of the enemy came from Fort Edward across the woods toward Benington, followed by a reinforcement of about 500 at some distance. Brigadier Gen^{l} Starks of the Hampshire militia with about 600 men, with some ranging company rais^{d} by the State of Vermont (as they call themselves) and part of Co^{ll} Simonds reg^{t} of militia of Berkshire, amounting to about 800 in the whole, advanc^{d} toward the enemy, found them on the road about 3 miles beyond Benington meeting-house, posted on a eminence just over a bridge over a river, fortify^{d} within breast works and 4 brass field pieces. Gen^{l} Starks order^{d} two flanking partys secretly to wade the river at a good distance, and when they had flank^{d} the enemy he with the remainder appear^{d} in front for an attack, and drew the attention of y^{e} enemy that way, when the flanking partys rush^{d} on on both sides and carry^{d} the breast works, took 400 prisoners & 4 brass cannon, from 3 to 6 pounders, then persu^{d} the remainder about a mile; when the reinforcement join^{d} the enemy they made a stand, our people gave way, retreated perhaps 60 rods, when a reinforcement on our side came up, and turn^{d} out and waylaid the road, and let our people pass; and when the enemy came between our waylayers they fir^{d} upon y^{e} enemy, kill^{d} many; they gave way; our people continu^{d} the persuit & fight till dark; took a brass 9 pounder, 200 and odd prisoners, &c. The rest fled in the night toward Fort Edward. In the morning men were sent about 10 miles after them, found the road strew^{d} with baggage, wounded & dead men, provison, &c. About 700 prisoners are on the road, consisting of Hessians, Brunswickers, Waldeckers, Canadians, Indians, Tories, & British, upwards of 400 ar[e] German, 170 Tories; about 150 of y^{e} enemy kill^{d}, and great number wounded, that on the whole they return about 1,000 less than they came out. Our loss about 50 kill^{d} and mortaly

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wounded. This was all perform^{d} by militia men under Gen^{l} Starks. Gen^{ll} Lincoln came with a number from our army at Half Moon, but the action was over before he arriv^{d}. I have ben night and day employ^{d} in this alarm ever since I rec^{d} the express, on Sunday night 2 o'clock. Now am at Cap^{t} Whitney's, returning home at 12 o'clock, &c. A man is now come here with catrdges, flints, &c., from Cap^{t} Lord, at Litchfield, with a copy of y^{r} letter, by which I understand Co^{ll} Smith is coming with Co^{ll} Humphry's reg^{t}, on the same erand on which I have ben. Cap^{t} Whitney is not returnd. I directed the man that came with the amunition to lodge it with Cap^{t} Isaac Lawrence, who keeps our town stock. I have sent advice to Leu^{t} Co^{ll} Smith of the orders we had by Major Sedgwick to return home, &c., &c. I am your most obedient, humble ser^{t}.

CHARLES BURRALL.

CANAAN, 19th Aug^{t}, 12 o'clock at night, 1777.

To his Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 19th Aug., 1777, 12 o'clo., at night. Col^{o} Charles Burrell, *de* his going on alarm to Bennington, his return, p order Gen^{l} Lincoln, acc^{o} of events, &c., rec^{d} 21st ins^{t} p L^{t} Col^{o} Smith.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HORATIO GATES.

HARTFORD, 21st of August, 1777.

SIR, — I am favored with your letter of the 6th inst., wherein you request a reinforcement of seven hundred and fifty militia from this State, to be immediately sent to the headquarters of the northern army. It is expedient to acquaint you that previous to the receipt of your letter, in compliance with the pressing request of General Schuyler, the Assembly of this State have ordered about two hundred of the light horse and two regiments of the militia of this State to march as soon

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as possible, to join the northern army, and the necessary measures taken to facilitate their march as fast as possible, agreeable to the acts of Assembly enclosed. These orders I have not thought proper to countermand at present, altho' the number is much greater than requested in your letter, as it is presumed you will be enabled much better to judge of the necessary numbers requisite for your assistance since your arrival in the Northern Department, and finding the situation of affairs in that quarter, than you could possibly be at the time and place your letter was wrote.

However, it would be very agreeable to me, and happy for the militia of this State, if the number you have requested should still be thought sufficient in your opinion, that the remainder might, by counter orders, be excused from marching.

Upon General Washington's request through Gen[l] Putnam three thousand of our militia have been lately ordered to Peekskill, many of whom are arrived at that post, and we have now a call for one battalion to go to Providence, to aid our sister State there, which makes the burden heavy and severe upon this State at present.

Add to all this a considerable number of our militia are now gone off instantaneously to the assistance of the army near Bennington upon pressing request from that quarter; how long they may be detained is uncertain. Under these circumstances it cannot be doubted you will request no greater number than shall be thought necessary for the public good. I am therefore to desire your further advice on this subject, as the whole number of light horse and two regiments of militia will pursue their march untill they receive counter orders. Yet it would be happy could you be able to advise me that the situation of the northern army is such you have occasion still to request only the 750 militia.

I most heartily congratulate you on your return to the

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Northern Department; cannot but hope the confidence which the troops will continue to repose in your command, with the smiles of Divine Providence, will soon drive our enemies out of that quarter.

I am, with esteem and regard, Sir,
Your obedient, hble. servant.
J—— T——L.

22d. Colo Burrell and the rest that set out for the assistance of our army at Bennington are returned. I congratulate you on the signal success at that place.

JEREMIAH POWELL* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(*On Public Service*) *His Excellency Jona Trumbull, Esq., Governor of the State Connecticutt. Lebanon.*

Council Chamber, Boston, Augst 21st, 1777.

Sir, — We have recd your favor of the 16th instant; we are duely impress'd with the importance affording aid & support to the army in the Northern Department. Previous to the meeting of our Assembly the Council had, in consequence of an application from Genl Schuyler to be reinforced with two thousand men from this State, ordered such a proportion of the regiments in the Countys of Middlesex & Worcester to march to the northward for the support of the army there as would, with the militia from the Counties of Hampshire & Berkshire, furnish that number of troops, and our Assembly, since that order, have directed one sixth part of the militia of seven Counties within this State to march to Bennington

* Jeremiah Powell was born June 3, 1720, and died at North Yarmouth, Maine, in September, 1784, while on a visit to his ancestral estate, where a large part of his life had been passed. For many years he represented North Yarmouth in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and was subsequently, for a long time, a member of the Council, of which he was President in the early part of the War of the Revolution. See Bradford's New England Biography, p. 334; Collections of the Maine Historical Society, vol. vii. pp. 233–238; Whitmore's Mass. Civil List, pp. 62–64, 121, 147, 151. — Eds.

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for the purpose aforesaid, which one sixth part will amount, we suppose, to near four thousand men; & since the rising of the Assembly the Council have further directed the brigadiers of the Counties of Hampshire and Berkshire, if they thought the service required it, to march the whole of the militia of the Counties aforesaid for the support of the army in the Northern Department. The Assembly have also passed the resolution now inclosed, in order to compleat our quota of the Continental troops assigned to this State. You have also inclosed a return of the officers and privates of the fifteen battalions raising by this State that have already marched made to General Heath, & also return from the muster masters of the numbers of men that have inlisted in said battalions, amounting to seven thousand eight hundred and sixteen men, so that you will find, that instead of there being raised, as you imagine, not more than one third of the fifteen battalions, there has been raised near three quarters.

In the name & by order of y^e^ Council,
I am y^r^ Excellency's most obd^t^ Serv^t^.
JER. POWELL, *Pres^dt^*.

His Excellency Gov^r^ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 21^st^ Aug^t^, 1777. Hon^ble^ Jeremiah Powel, Esq^r^, President of the State of the Massachusetts Bay, *de* their Continental troops, inclosing their returns, &c., rec^d^ 28^th^ inst.

ISRAEL PUTNAM TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, at Hartford, Connecticutt.

PEEKS KILL, August 21^st^, 1777.

SIR, — Col. Morgan with a thousand riflemen is hourly expected here on his way to the northward. The vessels are ready to receive and carry them to Albany.

Gen^l^ Washington is still in Bucks County, and by let-

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ters from him of the 18th Gen[l] Howe's fleet is still hovering at Sinepuxet inlett; designs yet remain a secret. He desires that a certain number of militia may be sent to continue three months at least; and then we can know what we have to depend upon. Two thousand at least will be needed to be sent for the time afores[d], and to relieve those that are here. L[t] Moore and Ensign Rusco have had their tryal and are cashired.

Inclosed is a copy of a return of the innoculated in Connecticut belonging to the Continental army. I observe a great differrence of the expence in different towns and don't understand the reason of it. Some are charged verry reasonably and some verry unreasonably; I wish the matter might be inquired into and set right. I have sent the militia and light horse to White Plains to annoy the enemy and secure the inhabitants.

From Gen[l] Howe's motions and some other information I have gain'd, I am fully of oppinion that the fleet's hovering on the coast is only a decoy, that the next we shall hear of Gen[l] Howe and his army (at least the greater part) will be to the northward, whilst the main body of our army are attentive to the shadow, watching the motions of the fleet to the southward, the joint force of Howe & Burgoyne will be down upon us from the northward. I have many reasons for this oppinion.

The following is a description of a person who came from Burgoin to G. Clinton at N. York, & is going back, — a lad about 17 years old, 5 feet 3 inches high, slim built, pock mark[d], has the appearance of a Creaole, light brown hair & eyes. By very certain intelligence the enemy's strength consisted of 5,600 only when Ty was evacuated.

Most respectfully, I am your Excellency's most obedient, humble Servant,

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

His Excellency Gov[r] TRUMBULL.

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BENEDICT ARNOLD* TO HORATIO GATES.†

MOHAWK RIVER, 10 miles above FORT DAYTON,
August 23d, 1777, 5 o'clock, A.M.

DEAR GENERAL, —I wrote you the 21st instant from the German Flatts, that from the best intelligence I could procure of the enemy's strength it was much superior to ours; at the same time enclosed you a copy of the resolutions of Council of War, and requested you to send me a reinforcement of one thousand light troops. As the enemy had made their approaches within two hundred yards of the fort, I was determined at all events to hazard a battle, rather than suffer the garrison to fall a sacrifice. This morning I marched from the German Flatts for this place. The excessive bad roads and necessary precautions in marching thro' a thick wood retarded us so much that we have but this moment reached this place, where I have met an express with the enclosed from Colonel Gansevort acquainting me the enemy had yesterday left Fort Schuyler with great precipitation. I am at a loss to judge their real intentions, whether they have returned home, or retire with a view of engaging us on the road. I am inclined to think the former, from the account of deserters and from their leaving their tents and considerable baggage, which our people have secured. I shall immediately detach about nine hundred men & make a forced march to the fort, in hopes of coming up with their rear, and securing their cannon and heavy baggage. My artillery, tents, &c., I shall leave here; the batteaus with provisions follow me. As soon

* Benedict Arnold was born in Norwich, Conn., Jan. 14, 1741, and served in the American Army with distinction in the early part of the War of the Revolution. In the summer of 1780 he entered into an intrigue to surrender West Point to the British, and on the discovery of his treachery fled to the British army, and accepted a commission as Brigadier General in the service of the mother country. Subsequently he went to England, and died in London June 14, 1801. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. i. pp. 93–96; Sparks's American Biography, vol. iii. — EDS.

† Printed from a copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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as the security of the fort will permit, I shall return with as many men as can be spared. As I come down the batteaus shall be able to make great dispatch. I have sent an order for the light troops, if you have sent any, to return to you immediately, and the militia to go home.

I am, &c.

B. ARNOLD.

Hon^ble^ Majr Genl GATES.

PETER GANSEVOORT* TO BENEDICT ARNOLD.†

DEAR SIR, — This morning at 11 o'clock I began a heavy cannonade upon our enemy's works, which was immediately returned by a number of shells and cannon. About three o'clock seven deserters came in, who informed me that Genl St Leger with his army was retreating with the utmost precipitation, soon after which I sent a party of about sixty men to enter their camps, who soon returned, and confirmed the above accounts.

About 7 o'clock this evening Hanfort Schuyler arrived here, and informed that General Arnold, with two thousand men, were on their march for this post, in consequence of which I send you this information.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

PETER GANSEVOORT, *Col.*

To General ARNOLD, or the Commanding Officer of Troops marching to Fort Stanwix.

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* Col., afterward Gen., Peter Gansevoort was born in Albany, N. Y., July 17, 1749, died there July 2, 1812. He rendered good service during the War of the Revolution, and afterward filled various important offices. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. ii. p. 589. — EDS.

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ELIPHALET DYER, RICHARD LAW, AND WILLIAM WILLIAMS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

The Hon^ble^ Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r^, Gov^r^ of the State of Connecticut, New England. Free. Delegates from Connecticut.

PHILADELPHIA, August y^e^ 25^th^, 1777.

SIR, — Since ours of last Monday, when it was apprehended Gen^l^ How was gone for South Carolina, he has appeard with his whole fleet, as it is supposed, entering Cheesepeek Bay, & by the last accounts was up as far as where the river Elk enters the Bay. It is conjectured he intends landing at a place called Charlestown, from whence it is probable his first design may be upon Lancaster, where we have large stores & some hundreds of prisoners. On notice of the fleet coming up the Bay immediate orders were sent to Lancaster to remove the stores & prisoners from thence to some place of safety. But Philadelphia may yet be his principal object, as he will have but about fifty miles march to this place, if this is his design. The only reason of his changing Delaware for Cheesepeek must be the concern he had of the fire ships & rafts, of which we had large numbers in this river. Gen^l^ Washington with his army had lain about 20 miles from this

* These three gentlemen were the Delegates from Connecticut at this time in attendance at the Continental Congress. Col. Eliphalet Dyer was born in Windham, Conn., Sept. 28, 1721, graduated at Yale College in 1740, and studied law. He was a Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut from 1766 to 1793, and a delegate to Congress from 1774 to 1779, and from 1780 to 1783, besides filling other important offices. He died in his native town May 13, 1807. (See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. ii. p. 285; Annals of Congress, pp. 130, 487; Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. i. pp. 644–647.) Richard Law was born in Milford, Conn., March 17, 1733, graduated at Yale College in 1751, and also studied law. He was a member of the General Assembly and of the Council of Connecticut, and at two different periods a delegate to Congress, besides being a lawyer of eminence and a judge. He died in New London, Jan. 26, 1806. (See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. pp. 637, 638; Annals of Congress, pp. 251, 487; Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 257–259.) William Williams, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was born in Lebanon, Conn., April 18, 1731, graduated at Harvard College in 1747, and died in Lebanon Aug. 2, 1811. He was a delegate to Congress from 1776 to 1778, and again in 1783 and 1784, and held many other important offices. He married the second daughter of Governor Trumbull. (See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. vi. p. 526; Annals of Congress, pp. 468, 487.) — EDS.

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city towards the Jerseys untill Thursday last, when, supposing Gen^{ll} How to have gone far southward beyond his reach, had determined to push up the North River & indeavour a total rout of the enemy northward, if possible, at the same time to have attempted dislodging the enemy from New York, & have drove them in their detached parts from all their posts in the Northern & Eastern Department. Providence seemed to point out this season when How was at so great a distance, to accomplish all this before his return, but, having that day received intelligence of the fleet pushing up Chesepeek, altered his rout & is now on his march to meet the enemy wherever he may find them on this side Cheesepeek. He marched thro this city yesterday morning, about 8 o'clock, with his whole army, which made a very respectable appearance. The militia from this State, Delaware, Maryland, & the nearest Countys in Virginia are ordered to join him. It is rather thought that Gen^{ll} Washington's forwardness to meet him in this quarter, especially if the militia join him as is expected, will again discourage How's attempts this way, but if not have the greatest hopes with the blessing of Heaven that here he may recieve his final overthrow. And we are yet in hopes, notwithstanding Gen^{ll} Washington's being diverted from the northward and eastward, yet if New England (on the present divided state of How & Burgoin's army) will properly exert themselves and rightly improve the advantages put into their hands, they may by the blessing of Heaven effect a most happy close to the present warr before this year expires. We hope Burgoin's success (however blameworthy the gen^{ll} officers in that quarter may have been) will by the disposals of Providence prove his ruin & destruction. Congress have done what lay in their power to remove the complaints of the people, recalled the officers concernd, ordered the strictest scrutiny & are making every preparation for a full, fair & impartial tryal. They have sent such officers

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to command in their room in that Department as they thot most acceptable to the people & in whom they might confide, both for skill & fidelity, that we shall have no excuse for ourselves or the people whom we represent if they should now fail to offer themselves readily & chearfully in the cause of their bleeding country. We hope, we trust, they will no longer drouse or sleep untill the tommahawk awake them in their own dwellings & habitations. The notable affair of Gen^{ll} Stark with his party seems to open a happy prospect of future success in that quarter, if properly follow^{d} & pursued, which God grant. This, with the success of Co^{ll} Herkemer & Willet near Fort Stanwix, & the distruction of so large a number of the savages at their first onset, are most seasonable interpositions of Providence in our behalf when every thing look'd gloomy in that quarter. The great & weighty affairs of our Confederacy, the supplies of our Treasury, giving credit & s[t]ability to our depreciating currency, are objects which we trust will very soon be attended to, tho we have been unhappily diverted therefrom by other matters, tho not so important yet necessary to be done.

We have the honour to be, with the greatest esteem & regard,

Your Honor most obed^{t}, h^{le} serv^{ts}.

ELIPHALET DYER.
RICH^{D} LAW.
W^{M} WILLIAMS.

By the best computation we can make Gen^{ll} Washington army of Continental troops amount to between ten & eleven thousand fit for duty; expects to be joined by about 7 or 8 thousand militia.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

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WILLIAM WILLIAMS* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq., Governor of yᶠ State of Connecticut, Lebanon. Free. W. Williams.

PHILᴬ, Augᵗ 26, 1777.

HONᴰ SIR, — Since my last of abᵗ yᵉ 19ᵗʰ inᵗ, I have by the good hand of Providence been regaining my health, have been able to attend Congress ever since, tho I recover strength very slowly; am not able at this time to write Mʳˢ Williams. You will please to let her & my other dear friends know yᵉ better state of my health.

In a joint letter of last evenᵍ we informed you of the intelligence we have of yᵉ Howes' fleet & army, there is a report the army is landed at George Town & Frederic Town, up Sassafrass River in Maryland, but I believe very uncertain, as no express has brot it. It is said they had a most remarkably safe & quick passage up Cheasapeak Bay, that there is comonly more danger in that navigation than a West India or European voyage, & that a single ship is generally 8 days in getting as high as the whole fleet arrivd in there. I trust their design must have been to attack this city, that they were deterd from attempting it up this river by finding our army so near, & so much fire craft, &c., prepared to meet them. (They have minute intelligence from those enemies of God & man the Tories.) It seems probable their next intention was to come up the River Elk at yᵉ head of yᵉ Bay they are in, & within about 12 miles of New Castle & make their attempt that way, & have lain out of sight so long on purpose that Genˡ Washington might return to his station, which by yᵉ united opinion of his genˡ officers he had determind, & which was approved by Congress, & begining to execute the moment we were advised of their

* See note, *ante*, p. 131. — EDS.

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being in the Bay, which occasioned his return; he pasd thro y^e^ city on Sat. morn^g^ last, another brigade pas^d^ yesterday morn^g^. 4,000 militia of this State are ordered & on the proper ground; 1,000 from Delaware, 2,000 from Maryland, & upw^d^ of 2,000 from y^e^ nearest parts of Virginnia are called upon & hope will be seasonable. Whether the enemy on getting intelligence of these things will think it prudent to hazard so much I cant say, but believe it is more than they expected. Indeed, were it not for the abounding sins & wholly unreformed state of the country, I sho'd dare to hope that God in mercy had blinded the minds & darkned the councils of enemies & turned them into foolishness. I know not what may yet be, but it wo'd seem they had lost the season, & must render their troops sickly on ship board so long in extreme heat, & neglected for them a happy season to join & cooperate with Burgoyne, or fall upon other parts of N. England, & effectually prevent any succours to y^e^ norward, & so leave in Burgoyn's power to accomplish his rage, whilst Howe might have ravaged & desolated our country & reduced us to amazing distress, & effected more than the conquest of this city; but we know not what [with?] certainty what is before us & may be sanguine, but this is certain N. England has vast occasion to bless & praise the Lord, for his wondrous mercy in our deliverance from the dreadful scourge. The distress had been beyond all description, had our enemy invaded them in so critical a moment. O that there was an heart in our countrymen. May God in infinite mercy pour out his spirit upon us. I hope & trust is the earnest cry of all that love his name.

I am glad to see a day of fasting is appointed in Con^tt^ & Massa. May we no longer mock y^e^ Almighty with deceitful words from feigned lips.

The time is elapsed & y^e^ post on y^e^ point of setting out. With compliments to y^e^ gent. of your Councill & tender

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remembrance to my dear friend, I am & shall ever be, with great respect & highest esteem,

Your most dutiful & obed son & servt.

W. WILLIAMS.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

I hope you recd mine by Sa. Hunt.

BENEDICT ARNOLD TO HORATIO GATES.*

GERMAN FLATTS, August 28th, 1777.

DEAR GENERAL, — The 24th instant in the evening I reached Fort Schuyler, too late after so fatiguing a march to pursue the enemy that evening. Early next morning a detachment of five hundred men followed them; soon after a heavy rain came on, which obliged them to return, except a small party who went to the Oneida Lake, where they arrived just in time to see the last boats of the enemy going off; the 26th proved a rainy day, so that it was impossible for the troops to move untill the evening, when I sent off Colo Livingston's and Colo Jackson's regiments. Yesterday Bailey's and Wesson's left Fort Schuyler and arrived here last evening. The greatest dispatch is made in getting their boats over the Falls. You may depend on my joining you as soon as possible with my detachment. I have left Gansevoort's and Van Schaick's regiments, consisting of 700, at Fort Schuyler; one company of the latter at Fort Dayton, and a second at Fort Johnson. They are supplied with two months' provisions and good store of ammunition.

Yours, &c.

B. ARNOLD.

Indians of Oneida and Tuscarora exceeding friendly; others not so; all, however, seem inclined to hold to the

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advice of the Commiss^rs to adhere to neutrality. The young men may easily be induced to join, &c.; their chiefs, &c., hold off.

ELIPHALET DYER* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Gov^r of the State of Connecticutt. Free.

PHILADELPHIA, Sep^tr 1^st, 1777.

SIR, — Since our last, when we informed you Gen^ll How had landed his army at the head of Elk, the enemy have made but little progress and have extended their army but about 4 miles. Gen^ll Washington has made his head quarters at Willmington, about 14 miles from the enemy, Gen^ll Green about 4 miles advanced towards them, with about 4,000 men. The militia of this country are daily reinforcing Gen^ll Washington and are employed in harrassing Gen^ll How's partys, which oblidge them to keep pretty close & compact. It is supposed our army now consists of near twenty thousand men under Gen^ll Washington, & increasing. Our parties have taken about a hundred since their landing, including some deserters; the enemy have lost a considerable number of their horses since they landed. Nothing appears discourageing in this quarter; if the enemy should advance it would give us an advantage of throwing a large body of men in their rear. Appearances are favourable, but success is of the Lord, to whom we would commit our cause & hope for a prosperous issue. Congress are deeply engaged in financiering, in contriving ways & means. All agree in taxing largely, but that will not afford us immediate supplies. France & Spain offer to lend us. Will it do to borrow at least so much as to pay the interest by bills drawn on our Commissioners there? Will that induce

* See note, *ante*, p. 131. — EDS.

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our Continental bill holders to place their money in the loan offices as fast as we want it? Ought we, or does policy require, now our streights are great for speedy supplies, that in order to obtain them we may be oblidged to borrow on France & Spain sufficient to pay the intrest by bills drawn in favour of our lenders on our Commissioners there, which will secure their intrest not only in specie but payable in Europe, whereby the great risque & charge of transportation is saved & will bring us considerably in debt to those foreign powers. I ask does justice or policy require we should put all the past lenders, & who have obtained their certificates @ 6 pr cent payable here in y^e^ same bills they put in, on the same footing, which will much increase our debt abroad & will not help at all in bringing in present money into the loan offices. I know the old lenders will say yea; but what will prudence & impartial common sense say? I hope we may act with discretion on these & other important subjects, but advice once in a while would be very refreshing.

Have the honor to be, with the greatest esteem,
Your Hon^r^ obed^t^, hum^le^ serv^t^.

ELIPH^T^ DYER.

My partner not present when I sign & seal up this letter.

Indorsed: 1^st^ Sept^r^, 1777. Col^o^. Eliph^t^ Dyer, *de* the Armies, Loans, Hiring in France and Spain, rec^d^ 15^th^ ves. p Brown.

HORATIO GATES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

HEAD QUARTERS, 4^th^ Septem^r^, 1777.

DEAR SIR, — I have this instant recieved your Excellency's letter of the 1^st^ of this month from Lebanon. You may rest satisfied I will not detain the militia one

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moment longer than their personal service is absolutely necessary; that I am in anxious expectation may be much sooner dispensed with than perhaps they themselves think.

General Burgoyne has lately sent a flag to enquire after the prisoners in my hands, and requests to have liberty to send a surgeon, necessaries, cash, and attendants to comfort them. These I have granted, but at the same time gave him a tickler upon scalping. My answer and his letter you will see published by Congress. The shameful retreat of the enemy from Fort Stanwix, and the honor gained by Col° Gansevoort and our troops in the defence of that post, must give sincere pleasure to every friend of freedom and of America. I entirely approve of M^r^ Brown for our go-between, and shall readily order him to be paid what your Excellency says is my share. By the time I see him next, it is not unlikely but he may have some interesting intelligence to carry.

My respectful compliments to the old Commissary and Col° Jack. Such a solecism was hardly ever committed in military affairs as changing the commissariate in the middle of the campaign. I am

Your Excellency's most faithful and affectionate,
hble. servant.

HORATIO GATES.

His Excellency Gov^r^ TRUMBULL.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq, Gov^r^ of the State of Connecticutt. P M^r^ Morris. W^m^ Williams.

PHILADEL^A^, Sep^r^ 13^th^, 1777. Saturd. Even^g^.

HON^D^ SIR, — In my last I hinted my & y^e^ common apprehention that Howe did not intend to fight till his ships had got into y^e^ Delawar, but the event has shewd

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it otherwise. Thursday last was a day of most severe conflict, & it has pleased the holy God to suffer it, and for that time to our great disadvantage. Between 8 & 9 o'clock in the morning the enemy attemted to force a passage over the Brandywine river at Chad's Ford, near which our main body was placed; they began a heavy canonade, which was returnd & brot on a prodigious fire, wherein we had great advantage, &c., in an engagem[t] which lasted till about 11. The Gen[l] had advice they were moving their main body about 6 or 8 miles higher up to another Ford, near to which was Gen. Sullivan, &c., who had sent the Gen[l] that advice, on which Gen. Stephens, Green, & one more division were ordered to the assistance of Sullivan, but y[e] Gen[l] received again intelligence from him that the first advice was a mistake,* on which their march was countermanded, but unhappily, as y[e] first advice was true; & about 5 o'clo. they forced the passage before Sullivan was able to form, tho he attacked them with great bravery, as did many others posted there about. A very heavy & tremendous fire took place for considerable time; old officers & all I have seen say, beyond what they conceved possible from musquetry. Our men fought with great bravery, but were obliged to yield to superior numbers, & broke & fled, about 15 min. before Green's division came up, who was, however, of great advantage in covering the retreat; & in the absence of so many sent to y[e] upper Ford the enemy also forced a passage at Chad's, & our army retreated as fast as co'd well be & brot off all y[e] amunition & baggage waggons, &c., &c., which were very numerous, but lost 9 pieces of cannon, (they are replaced from y[e] city, tis said). The enemy were left masters of y[e] field, the confusion of y[e]

* Great blame is laid to G. Sullivan for not geting better intelligence, & not forming his men, &c., tho he fo't with great personal bravery, & I expect he will be suspended, as his brigad[r] De, &c. Borre is already, one of M[r] D's officers from France.

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day was great. Gen[l] Washing[n] retreated to Chester, ab[t] 12 miles below us, & endeavord to collect his army there; as they went & scatterd in such confusion, I trust he will never find them all again by many, who are alive. The Gen[l] is now got to German Town, 6 m[s] from this northward, where his headquarters are, & I take it the main of his army. The loss on our side is very much unknown even to y[e] Gen[l]; some are confident not more than 400, of killd, wounded & missing, & others as confident it is at least 1,000; and every one inclines to think the enemy's is much larger, some say at least 3 to one, but doubtful to me. We always think in this way. As our army was much dispersed, having many posts & passes to defend, not near all were ever engaged, & few or none of the militia. Tis said by every one that they behaved with great bravery, but were under many disadvan[ta]ges of ground, &c., &c., also that they are yet in good spirits & not dismayed. The Gen[l] also has strong faith yet effectually to resist them, both which I believe are true. The storys are very many & various, & volumes wod not contain them. It is said & believed the enemy have not moved from the field, but reports have been that they are moved up to y[e] Sweed's Ford over the Schuylkill, about 15 miles, & will come by y[e] way of Ger[n] Town & also that part are gone to Wilmington, &c. I rather think the first is true, & that they are much galled, & wait for 4,000 recruits from Rhode Island, N. York, & parts adjacent, which we learn from Peekskill they had sent for before the battle, & are probably hard bye. Congress had also sent for 1,500 from that place before y[e] action. 4,000 Jersey militia are on y[e] move & expect them in 2 or 3 days; the whole militia of this State are called upon & 5,000 to march, but I cant say they turn out with spirit, tho some worthy men of y[e] city affirm they do. Tis said 1,500 Maryland militia are in their rear com[s] on, have heard nothing from Virgin.; but hope they are

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moved. The people of y^e^ city seem to be a little stirred, & but very little. They are amazingly stupid & seem to think no harm will come to them, tho there is little doubt but y^e^ murderers are promised y^e^ plunder of y^e^ town. Indeed tis hard for me to say whether y^e^ greater part will not be well pleased with Howe's success. A flag is come to the Gen^l^ this day, it is said, with proposals to receive our wounded prisoners in their hands & with promise that the rest shall be treated as those of war, &c. Some are disposed to make light of what has happened, & others to aggravate it to y^e^ highest degree. Most certainly it is a serious & important affair to have such an army, so full of confidence & spirit, so worsted as to find it proper to retreat above 30 miles, & make their last stand where such another encounter will certainly be fatal as to this city. It is an awful frown of divine Providence, but we are not at all humbled under it, a sad sign that more dreadful evils await us. We are indeed at a most critical & tremendous crisis; a powerful army, flushed with victory & animated by y^e^ strongest motives, riches & glory before them, no hope of escape from shame & death but by conquest, pursuing & at the gates of this great city. Yet if we have a few days & y^e^ people turn out & behave as they ought on such an occasion, we might have yet great hope, & to be sure I am far from despairing, that God will yet save us, yet we have reason to tremble. Our amazing sins totally unrepented of, to all appearance, is the burden of my perpetual fears and apprehentions; but such language is most exceedingly ungrateful & unattended to here. What can we then expect? but God's mercy [is] infinite & greater than our sins; yet does he usually save a people that wont be saved & fight against him? yet I must & cant but hope, but perhaps tis a false & ill grounded hope; I must however entertain, till I know it is so. The next news you receive from hence will be of vast importance.

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God grant, in his infinite mercy, it may be happy. Sho'd they succed, the blow must be terrible, & the wound deep, but I hope not incurable. The effect it may have on our credit & currency will not be the least dangerous. What will become of us in such a case God only knows, Congress are not disposed even to consider where we shod remove to, if we are not able to stay here, & I dont expect they will, till y^e^ last minute. We are in the hands of an infinitely wise & good Being, who orders all things well. O that every soul was joining with you in ardent supplications, for the reformation of this people, & for the deliverance & salvation of this land. Have wrote a very imperfect sketch of y^e^ thous^d^ things said, &c., in great haste, not knowing of Morriss's going till ab^t^ 9 o'clo. With tender remembrance to my dear wife & other dear friends,

I am most affectionately your dutiful son & serv^t^.

W. WILLIAMS.

His Excll^y^ Gov TRUMBULL.

It is believed 6 or 8 ships of [war,] &c., are got into y^e^ Bay.

ISRAEL PUTNAM TO THE MILITARY OFFICERS IN CONNECTICUT.

PEEKSKILL, Sept^r^ 14^th^, 1777. 11 o'clock, P. M.

GENTLEMEN, — A large body of the enemy crossed from King's Bridge to Fort Lee last Friday with a number of field pieces; whether they design to penetrate the Jersies & co-operate with Gen^l^ How or attack this post, is uncertain. Gen^l^ M^c^Dougal is sent over after them with four regiments. This moment arrived an express from Congress, containing advices that there has been a severe action between Gen^l^ Washington & G. How, last Thirsday, in which the former was obliged to retire with the loss of several field peices; & in consequence there-

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off the Congress have ordered fifteen hundred men to be immediatly sent from here to reinforce Gen^{l} Washington, which obliges me, for the common safety, to call upon all the officers & soldiers of the Continental troops & militia in the State of Connecticut, that have not special lisence to be absent, immediatly to repair to this post, for the aid & defence thereoff and to defeat & crush our cruel & perfidious foes; & would we, my countrymen! forever lay aside our avarice, oppression & evil works, for which the land mourns & the inhabitants thereoff are distressed & terrifyed, & unitedly exert our selves like freemen resolved on freedom, through the smiles of heaven, we should put a speedy end to those unnatural disturbers of our peace &, with them, a period to this unhappy & bloody war, which now ravages & desolates our country, & threatens its inhabitants & their posterity with the most dismal ruin & abject slavery.

Such casualties are incident to human affairs, the natural result of general national depravity, & are avoidable only by reformation & emendment in the publick manners of a people.

Awake then to vertue & to great military exertions, & we shall put a speedy & happy issue to this mighty contest.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

P. S. Let those that come of the militia be properly officered & equip^{t} with amunition, as far as possible, & be drafted with design to tarry till Jan^{y} if needed.

To the Col^{s} & other officers of the army & militia in the State of Connecticut.

Indorsed by Gov. Trumbull: Gen^{l} Putnam to Officers of Army & Militia. 14th 7^{ber} '77.

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ISRAEL PUTNAM TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public Service, pr. Express. To His Excellency Gov^r Trumbull at Lebanon, Connecticutt.

PEEKSKILL, Sept^r 15^th^, 1777.

HON^D SIR, — Your favour of the 2^nd^ ins^t^ I have been duly honoured with, & have observed the contents, since which Gen^l^ Parsons has been here & is returned to White Plains, with the remainder of his Brigade, two field peices & a howitzer, & are necessary there to protect all that part of the country. Last Friday a large body of the enemy, four or five thousand, crossed over from King's Bridge to Fort Lee, marched to Hackensack & were advancing on, — whether they design to penetrate the Jersies & make a diversion in favour of Gen^l^ How, to forrage, or to make an attack on this post, is uncertain. I ordered Gen^l^ McDougal with four regiments & two field peices over the river yesterday morning after them.

Yesterday arrived an express from President Hancock informing that there had been an action between the two armies to the southward, without any particulars. Last night, 11 o'clock, arrived an express with the particulars in a printed hand bill, one of which I send you.

The action was severe, continued long, & Gen^l^ Washington was obliged to retire behind Chester, with the loss of seven or eight field peices, as you will see by the hand bill. The Congress has ordered fifteen hundred men to be immediatly sent to reinforce Gen^l^ Washington. Gen^l^ McDougal, with four regiments, is already gone towards Jersey, who will be ordered to join Gen^l^ Washington or to act in concert with him. Gen^l^ Parsons is below, if I recal him the country will be left open to the ravages of the enimy, & at present I have not seven

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hundred men at this post that I can call into the field in case of an attack, exclusive of those in the forts, — too small a number to hazard so important a post with. I am therefore obliged, for the common safety, to request three thousand men to be immediatly sent on to this post from the State of Connecticut to be ordered untill the first of Jan^{y} next, to bring amunition as many as can. If Gen^{l} How should be successfull in another action, it will afford a busey scene for us in this quarter. How has left the ships, has sent all his heavy baggage on board, is far advanced into the country, & must carry his point or be wholly lost. The troops have been in such a scattered posture that I have obtained but few of those returns you wrote for, although I immediatly caused it to be put in Gen^{l} Orders. Casualties in war are incident to human affairs, the natural result of general national depravity, & remediable only by reformation & emendment in the publick manners of a people.

I could wish to be informed whether you have any ship guns, 18 & 24 pounders, at Salisbury that can be spared for this river. I hope we shall be waked up to vertue & to mighty exertions in this great contest. Should that ever be the case I am certain we should soon put a period to these troubles.

With esteem & great respect, I am your Excellency's obedient, humble servant.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

After I had seal^{d} this I forgot whether I acquainted you in it that I had wrote to B. G. O. Woolcut & B. G. Silliman respecting the militia.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HORATIO GATES.

LEBANON, 16th Septemr, 1777.

SIR, — I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, since which my having nothing material to inform, and Mr Brown having been to the southern army, has prevented my writing.

The confidence you express of success in your department gives me the greatest pleasure, as I think it reasonable and just. Affairs in the southern quarter at present wear a very favorable aspect. Before this 'tis highly probable there must have been a general action, as the two armies were this day week encamped opposite each other, at one mile and half distance only. The enemy having sent round their shipping seem determined to try their fortune in the field, at all events to have possession of Philadelphia. Their army by the best account are not more numerous than 12 or 15,000. Ours about 20,000, and additions of militia still making. Mr Brown can give you more particular accounts.

A plan is forming for making a descent on Rhode Island, to disposses the enemy of that place. Their numbers are about 3,500 including sick. For the expedition are designed about 8,000 men, who must be partly troops raised for the defence of Rhode Island and this State, but principally militia. The example lately set in your quarter will, I hope, animate those who may be called to act on this occasion with a noble ambition of meriting equal honor. Indeed, I think the present the most favorable opportunity that has offered during the war of eradicating totally our insolent enemies from every part of the country, for while they bestow their whole force and whole attention on their grand expedition, New York and Rhode Island are left weak, and if we have the spirit to attempt them must fall an easy prey.

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By the return of Brown I shall hope for important and agreeable intelligence. Meantime

I am, &c.

J—— T——L.

P. S. The late Commissary, the Paymaster, and Jack* present their affectionate compliments, and wish you success and glory.

Hon^ble^ General Gates.

ISRAEL PUTNAM TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon, Connecticutt. Israel Putnam.

Peeks Kill, Sept^r^ 17^th^, 1777.

Hon^D^ Sir, — Since my last, I have prety certain intellegence that a late reinforcement is arived at N. York. A deserter that was taken at Danbury, belonging to Col. Bradly's reg^t^, who enlisted with the enimy & escaped from them at Soubriska's Mills, between Paramus & Hackensack, confirms this; he say, twas reported at King's bridge that 10,000 recruits had arrived at N. York, from where he did not hear, nor do I beleive there are so many; also that the detachment of the enimy who crossed over to Fort Lee amounts to four or five thousand & are chiefly British & Hessian troops.

Another detachment, consisting of about one thousand, landed at the same time at Elizebeth from Staten Island & marched through Newark toward Jason; they plundered little besides cattle & horses. Gen^l^ McDougal was, the last we heard from him, within nine miles of the enimy. Col. Bur, we hear, night before last had the adress to surprise the enimy's piquet, below Tappan,

* Joseph Trumbull, Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., and the Governor's fourth and youngest son, John Trumbull. — Eds.

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killed 16, mortally wounded seven, & captured the rest, except three. The militia of this State are ordered in.

Our loss in the action on Brandywine Creek doth not exceed one thousand killed & wounded; we lost seven field peices. The enemy's loss by the best computation amounts to near two thousand killed & wounded. Gen[l] How was busied all Friday & Saturday, taking care of the wounded & burying his dead. Gen[l] Washington retired this side the Schuylkill, but How not coming after him, got reinforced by the city militia, & on the 14[th] recrossed the Schuylkill, on his way to Chester to make M[r] How another visset, whose advanced guards are posted three miles from that place; his army in good spirits.

Gen[l] Washington has required one thousand men more from here to reenforce his army immediatly, which is not in my power to comply with. By letters from the northward of a late date, Gen[l] Gates is four miles above Saratoga, within eight miles of Burgoin, who appears to be making dispositions to fight him. Lincoln & Starks are gitting on his rear.

I have given orders to Gen[l] Parsons to make a diversion at the Bridge. The militia of the Jersies are coming to join Gen[l] McDougal, or to act in conjunction with him against the enemy there. Its reported here that the enemy have evacuated Newport, but hearing nothing of it from the eastward, presume its not so. The letter to Gov. Cook incloses an order of Congress for one battalion of Continental troops in Rhode Island to be immedeatly sent to the southward, & must be forwarded with dispatch. I doubt not but that with the assistance that will be afforded us from the militia, through the smiles of heaven accompanying our exertions, we shall be able yet to call out soon to our fellows & friends with joyfull hearts, *All is Well.* With sincere respect & esteem, I have the honor to be your Excellency's obed[t], humble servant.,

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

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Sep^{tr} 18th.

This moment rece^{d} advice from G. M^{c}Dougal that he suspects the regulars have left the Jersey, for they hastily decamp^{d} night before last & have not since been found, tho sought with carefulness.

Indorsed: Peek's Kill, Thursday, 17 Sept., 1777. Maj^{r} General Putnam, *de* reinforcement of the enemy. Brig^{r} Gen^{l} McDougall persued the enemy in the Jersies. Disappeared on search. Gen^{l} Washington's loss at Brandywine 1 m̄ killed and wounded. Gen^{l} Howe's loss, 2 m̄ killed & wounded. Gen^{l} Wash^{n} retired on this side Schuylkill, reinforced & recrossed. Gen^{l} Howe's advanced guards 3 miles on this side Chester. Our army in good spirits. Send for 1 m̄ reinforcem^{ts}. Not in his power. Acc^{ts} from the northward, &c.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HORATIO GATES.

LEBANON, 29th Septem^{r}, 1777.

SIR, — Yours of the 17th by Brown was recieved the next Tuesday, together with the accounts of the action of Friday. Permit me to congratulate you on that affair; such a beginning augurs well of what is to follow. We have accounts since by Bennington that Col^{o} Brown has succeeded in his enterprize against Ty——. I hope this will prove true. This moment we have accounts from the westward of General Howe's having outgeneral'd us, and stole a march for Philadelphia. I don't give you the particulars, as I find from General Putnam that he has already sent you the news. 'Tis strange that such an army must continually retire without once daring to fight an enemy who at the same time they affect to consider as their inferiors.

Troops are collecting in this, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island States for the attack of the enemy at Newport.

The numbers are for the Massachusetts	3,600
Rhode Island	2,500
Connecticut	1,500,

in two regiments under command of Colonels Ely & M^{c}Clellan, two very good officers. The first regiment

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has been in service these three months, the other is raised for the occasion. Every method is taken to prevent any correct intelligence from getting to the island. The descent will probably be made the second week of October.

I have sent Brown to the western army and Congress. In his place I wish you to send a *Jabez Fitch*, one of your militia horse. His captain I have forgot, but Majr Hyde or Lieut. Abraham Fitch will point him out to you. He is trusty, and there are particular inducements for me to ask his discharge. By then Brown will have returned.

My son your Paymaster will deliver you this, & can give you all the stories which fill the country. I am, Sir,

Most respectfully, your very obedient, hble. servant.

J—— T——L.

Honble Majr General Gates.

HORATIO GATES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

Camp, Behmus's Heights, 5th Octr, 1777.

Dear Sir, — Yesterday I had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter by Colo Jonathan Trumbull. I am happy to hear our beginning has given such general satisfaction. My care and constant attention are continually at work to make the close of the campaign glorious to the army, and ruinous to the common enemy of the United States.

By the information of spies, deserters from the enemy, and those of our own troops who have escaped from captivity, I am convinced that General Burgoyne expects a violent effort will be made by General Clinton to force the posts of the Highlands and unbar the door which the army under his (Burgoyne's) command have not yet been able to break open. I have acquainted Govr Clinton of this State with the intelligence I have recieved, and de-

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — Eds.

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sired he would prepare General Putnam for that event. I have also wrote in the strongest terms to Congress, to direct their attention to the important object.

The recovery of Rhode Island is doubtless an enterprize of great moment, but that might be done at leisure; to defeat the designs of the enemy in the main plan of their operations should at present engross all our care.

M^r Jabez Fitch presents your Excellency with this letter. I am pleased with his being appointed to supply the place of Brown. I am

Your Excellency's most affectionate, hble. servant.

HORATIO GATES.

My affectionate compliments to Colonels Jo. and John.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, 6th October, 1777.

HON^D SIR, — I yesterday left General Gates at Still Water, where all remain quiet at present, nothing material having happened since the action and return of Colonel Brown, — the latter having effected the taking a number of prisoners from the enemy, and releasing some of our prisoners, burning boats, stores, &c., &c., at Ty—— Landing and on Lake George. The enemy's principal stores, artillery, &c., not with them in camp, are on an island called 5 mile Island, near the bottom of Lake George. These Brown scarcely attempted, the enemy having discovered him previous to his arrival there. He found by their shots that they were ready for him, and exceedingly expert at firing. The action of the 19th holds out equal to what we heard. The enemy are now in fortified camp, partly on the ground where the battle

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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was fought. Our camp seems very advantageously situated and strong, no fear of an attempt on their lines. The enemy seem waiting some event to determine their movements. Some troops are expected under Gen^{l} S^{t} Ledger to reinforce them, perhaps 1,000. Our numbers are now full equal to the General's wishes. The fear is that the enemy will be quiet untill the militia grow uneasy for return. Prisoners and deserters are coming in every day. These generally agree that the enemy have not more than three weeks' provisions; some say not more than two weeks. Our expectations are now towards the southern army and extent; if nothing very untoward in our part happens from thence, hopes are very sanguine with regard to M^{r} Burgoyne.

Will Brown come this way on his return from the southward? The General expects a constant rider. I have mentioned to General Gates the quantity of salted provisions and spirits in our parts; suppose he will write on that head. Provisions have been extremely scarce. Sometimes not more than two or three days on hand. Once not one. The prospect on this head grows much better. Bread is most wanted. Fresh beef is plenty, but at a very great price.

I am, Sir,

Your most dutifull son,

JONTH TRUMBULL, JUN^{R}.

We seem to know nothing of southern operations in this quarter. Their communications to us are very scanty. May I beg the indulgence of your intelligence as it turns up and you are acquainted. We don't to this day know the fate of Philadelphia, or the destination of Congress.

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SAMUEL H. PARSONS* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

DANBURY, 7th Oct^{r}, 1777.

SIR, — I came this morning from Peekskill to forward with all possible expedition such troops as I should find coming to our aid from Connecticutt, & am much pleas^{d} to find my countrymen seem again, tho' at a late hour, in a degree rous^{d} from the stupor which had seis^{d} them. I think by appearances we shall soon receive a reinforcement of 2,000 men from this State; happy would it have been had one fourth of this body arriv^{d} yesterday. I am sorry to inform your Excellency, that the enemy made a successful attack upon F^{t} Montgomery yesterday. The 5th they landed about 1,500 men at King's Ferry on y^{e} east side the river, under cover of their ships & arm^{d} vessells, and the night after reimbark^{d} most of them, which with a large additional number, about 2,500 in y^{e} whole, were landed on y^{e} west side y^{e} 6th in y^{e} morning, keeping a large reserve on board & a party at King's Ferry. About 1 o'clock the enemy began the attack on y^{e} fort, which lasted without the least cessation untill near ½ after six in the ev'ning, when the post was carried by storm, after eight or ten unsuccessful attempts in which they were repuls^{d} with great loss. The courage & bravery display^{d} by the troops (principally militia of New York) who defended the fort would do honor to best disciplind regiments. No terms would be accepted, but with a fortitude seldom found, they undauntedly stood the shock, determined to defend the post or sell their

* General Samuel H. Parsons was born in Lyme, Conn., May 14, 1737, graduated at Harvard College in 1756, and was drowned in Pennsylvania or Ohio Nov. 17, 1789. After graduating he studied law, and rendered important services both in a civil and military capacity to his native State. He served in the army till the close of the War, and was afterward the first judge in the Northwestern Territory. During his life he appears to have enjoyed in large measure the esteem and confidence of his contemporaries; but in more recent years grave suspicions of his political integrity have been entertained. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iv. p. 663; and "A Vindication of General Samuel Holden Parsons, against the Charge of Treasonable Correspondence during the Revolutionary War," by Hon. George B. Loring. — EDS.

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lives as dear as possible. The fort was finally taken meerly for want of men to man the lines, & not for want of spirit in the men. But about 500 men was aforded to man the forts & outworks belonging to them, — a number not more than sufficient to defend the largest fort. The post on y^e^ east side was left in a weak, defenceless state & could aford but little aid. Thus was a post of importance, & the lives of some & the liberties of more brave men made a sacrifice to the careless inattention of our countrymen to objects of great & extensive public importance.

The enemy must have sufferd much, as more than three hours of this attack the musquetry was incessant, within forty yards & less great part of y^e^ time. Governor Clinton, who commanded, & Col. Lamb and some other officers escap^d^ after y^e^ enemy had enterd y^e^ fort. Gen^l^ James Clinton was wounded & is a prisoner. Major Humphry, Col. Du Bois, L^t^ Col. Levingston, & sundry other officers are missing. This event is unfortunate, but I hope will not be attended with any very important ill consequences. I think a little more patience & public virtue (which is now very scarce) will sett all things right again.

I am, with esteem,

Y^r^ Excellency's obed^t^, h^le^ serv^t^.

Gov^r^ TRUMBULL. SAM^L^ H. PARSONS.

Indorsed: Gen^l^ Parsons' Letter from Danbury 7^th^ of Octob^r^, 1777.

SAMUEL H. PARSONS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Public Service. His Excellency Gov^r^ Trumbull, Hartford or New Haven. P^r^ express M^r^ Nath Lewis.

FISHKILL, 9^th^ Oct^r^, 1777.

SIR, — I wrote yesterday from Danbury an account of the misfortune which had befallen this post merely for

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want of a timely reinforcement of men sufficient to man the lines: on that head I can only add that should this misfortune have the happy effect to rouse my countrymen to more vigorous exertions & to the exercise of a degree of patience, submission & perseverance necessary to accomplish any thing great or save the country from inevitable ruine, we may consider the event as fortunate rather than an evil from which any ill effects will follow. Gov^{r} Clinton, his brother Gen^{l} James Clinton, Col. Lamb, Col. Dubois, Major Humphry & most of the officers & great part of the men who were suppos^{d} to be lost have got in, many of them badly wounded. The garrison was defended with the greatest bravery; no men could do more. Our loss cannot yet be assertaind: I hope not so considerable as we feard. The army of the enemy are now advancing: we have no doubt Albany is their object. Should they attack this post from which they are now seven miles distant, & the same spirit of inattention seise our countrymen, I fear you will hear no better news from here. There is, indeed, great reason to fear it may be the case, as I myself met not less than forty of inhabitants of Connec^{tt} on their return home last night; they said they came out on a short excursion only, that they left their families in bad circumstances, & they saw no great danger of any attack from the enemy, & they were of opinion they were not wanted. Most of these men had not been more than an hour here & some turn^{d} back before they got within twenty miles. We shall fight the enemy if possible; we shall do our utmost to defend ourselves if attack^{d}. The troops are in good spirits; the issue is in the disposal of the Great Arbiter of all events. I think it of absolute necessity that all who can possibly bear arms & be spard should immediately be sent forward to Poukepsy, except those on their march for this post who will join us here. Gen^{l} Clinton who commands the British forces in person must

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be defeated at Albany, or before he arrives there, or Gen[l] Gates must be undone; every exertion is necessary to animate & incourage the people in this important crisis. That we are embark[d] in the cause of truth & justice, in the cause of God & mankind, is beyond a doubt; that we shall finally succeed I think equally certain. When public spirit prevails over private interest, oppression and injustice, so scandalously prevalent at this time, is restraind, & religion & virtue & a sense of our dependance on Heaven for all our mercies, & especially deliverance from imminent dangers, takes place of the vain confidence in our own arm & our own strength, — then & not till then will our salvation be wrought out; but I cannot say that a profes[d] beleif of these things & a careless neglect of using the means put into our hands for our own deliverance is any evidence of the sincerity of our profession. As Gen[l] Putnam is exceedingly busy, I have wrote by his desire.

I have the honor to be

Y[r] Excellency's obed[t], h[l] serv[t].

SAM[L] H. PARSONS.

Indorsed: Gen[ll] Parsons Lett[r], 9[th] Octob[r], 1777, giving an account of the loss of *Montgomery*.

JAMES WILKINSON* TO GEORGE CLINTON.†

D[r] SIR, — Gen[l] Gates has this moment recieved a copy of your letter of the 7[th] inst[t] to the Council of Safety;

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* James Wilkinson, now best remembered for his connection with Aaron Burr, was adjutant-general in Gates's army. He was born in Maryland in 1757, served with distinction in the early part of the War of the Revolution, was afterward involved in the Conway cabal, resigned his commission in the army, and removed to Kentucky. In 1791 he was reinstated, and subsequently held several important offices. In 1811 he was courtmartialled for complicity with Burr, but was acquitted for lack of evidence. The latter part of his life was spent in Mexico, where he died Dec. 28, 1825. See Appleton's Cyclopædia, vol. vi. pp. 511, 512. — EDS.

† George Clinton, Governor of New York from 1777 to 1795, and Vice-President of the United States from 1805 until his death, was born in Little Britain, N. Y., July 26, 1739, and

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and being much engaged desired me to tell you, that he condoles with you on the loss of so important a pass, but congratulates you on the bravery and address of your little garrison. To compensate for this disaster, we had on the 7th instt an action with Genl Burgoyne which reflects the highest lustre on our arms, as we carried his encampment and advanced works, took two twelves and six six-pounders, brass, with a number of carts, tents and a considerable quantity of baggage, made prisoners of the commanding officer of artillery of a foreign brigade & of the British grenadiers, with his Aid de Camp, Sir Francis Clark, the Q. M. Genl of the army, and a number of inferior rank, with about 250 non commd officers & privates. The slain both of officers & men is considerable; among the former is General Frazer. The consequent hurry has prevented a return; but I am sensible our killed and wounded do not exceed eighty; of the former there is barely one subaltern officer; among the latter is the gallant General Arnold, so badly injured as to render the amputation of a leg necessary. To aggrevate this misfortune General Lincoln, on the lines, recieved a chance shot which also fractured a leg in such a manner as to deprive us of his important service. General Burgoyne last night evacuated his post, leaving behind him upwards of three hundred sick and wounded, among whom are six captains, with a quantity of flower. He has retired towards Fort Edward, but as General Gates had the precaution to throw about 2,000 men in his rear, on the east side of the river, it is probable they will obstruct his retreat, and give us time to come up with him. The militia you demand were yesterday ordered down, and the Albany County, with 300 Connecticut

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died in Washington, D. C., April 20, 1812. At the breaking out of the War of the Revolution he was for a short time in the military service with the rank of General, and distinguished himself by his brave but unsuccessful defence of Forts Montgomery and Clinton, in October, 1777. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. i. pp. 659, 660. — Eds.

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militia under General Wolcott, will this day, if the weather permit, follow them.

I have the honor to be, D^r^ Sir,
Your obe^t^ Serv^t^.
JAMES WILKINSON.

CAMP BEMAN'S HEIGHTS, Oct^r^ 9^th^, 1777.

Gov^r^ CLINTON.

Indorsed by Gov^r^ Trumbull: M^r^ James Wilkinson's Letter of the 9^th^ of Octob^r^, 1777, *de* Gen^ll^ Burgoyne's Evacuating his Camp.

OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

CAMP, BEAUMUS HEIGHTS, 10^th^ Oct^o^, 1777.

SIR, — I came to this camp the 30 ultimo, with a little more than 300 men. The apparent exigency of our affairs in this Department, and the probability of affording some usefull succour to this army, were, as I observed in my former letter, my inducements to this undertaking. How farr the step which I have taken has been approved of by your Excellency and Council of Safety I have not been told; but as I was directed to afford such aid to this army as I tho^t^ proper, it was my opinion and the opinion of all gentlemen whom I consulted, that the enemy could not be so deeply wounded any where as in this quarter; and I am happy to find that the success which has attended our military operations in this Department has justified my opinion.

After the action of the 19^th^ the enemy kept close till the 7^th^, before which time a large force was collected at this place. On the 7^th^, about 2 o'clock P. M., the enemy began to advance upon our left, upon which our army were ordered to their posts, and part of Gen^l^ Arnold's division sent out to oppose the enemy. About three the enemy began to play with their field pieces, and as our party was much inferior to that of the enemy our people

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gave ground about sixty rods, when Gen[l] Arnold came up with a reinforcement about four, upon which the fire of the musquetry became violent and incessant till night, when the enemy retired to their lines, the outermost of which our people entered and kept possession of that night. Within these lines Gen[l] Arnold had his horse shot under him, and immediately after unfortunately had a musquet ball pass thro his ancle which broke the bone, and he has since been carried down to Albany. I cannot precisely say what was the loss on either side; ours was undoubtedly inconsiderable. I suppose we had about 20 killed and 60 wounded. The enemy had about 100 killed, 193 taken, and 200 or more wounded. I believe I shall not reckon too high when I say that the enemy were weakened by this action not less than five hundred. Among the wounded was Gen[l] Frazer, who is since dead. Taken, one of Gen[l] Burgoyne's Aid d[e] Camp, two Majors, and some other officers. We had no field officer killed, nor but very few officers wounded. We took from the enemy two 12, and six 6 pounders (brass). We had no field pieces of our own in the action. We also took from them between 3 or 400 tents. It is supposed we had between three and four thousand in the action, and it is said that the greater part of the enemy were engaged. Col. Cooke's regiment was in this day's action who behaved much to their honour, Col. Latimer's regiment took a part in the former action, and both of them have acquired much reputation.

It was fully expected that the enemy would retreat towards L. George the night after the action. In consequence of which nine or ten regiments were sent out very early the next morning, who returned towards night; having gone above the enemy's encampment about four miles, as farr as the river, they found that they had not passed. This intilligence was unexpected, as it had been confidently asserted by those who had come in that morning

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that the enemy had retreated about 2 o'clock. In this perswasion about 500 men were sent out on the morning of the 8th to drive what was supposed only a covering party out of their camp. Nothing of consequence was done that day. The enemy kept a scattered irregular fire which was returned, and a few people killed on both sides. Genl Lincoln had that day a musquet ball pass thro his leg which broke the bone. On this day I fancy both partys were much deceived, otherwise the enemy would not have failed to destroy the few of us who were then out before their lines, which they might have done with great facil[it]y, as their whole army was then in camp. I suppose they thot the petty appearance which we made was only a decoy to draw them out.

The night following the 8th the enemy evacuated their camp, leaving about 300 wounded, principally British troops, which Genl Burgoyne the next morning by flagg recommended to the care of Genl Gates. Very early on the morning of the ninth large partys were sent out of camp to harrass the enemy in their retreat, but its proving a very rainy day but little was effected, so that the enemy marched yesterday about 4 miles without much molestation.

This morning very large detachments are gone out, and the fire of field pieces are heard. The people with me are ordered to keep the camp. Genl Fellows is posted with about 2,000 militia on the east side the river, near Genl Schyler's plantation. This day will probably be attended with important events.

11th. — I intended to have closed my letter yesterday, but as I was desirous to communicate to your Excellency as many events as possible at this most interesting period, I have stoppd the express till this morning to give you the history of yesterday, but which I cannot do with particularity; but can only in general observe that almost the whole of our army went forward yesterday.

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Gen[l] Gates followed about 2 o'clock, P. M. The enemy attempted to cross the river near Schyler's plantation, but were hindered by Gen[l] Fellows. They then made an attempt to go off from the river and flank our people on the west side, but were prevented. Our army are on their front and flank and on the oppisite side of the river. Yesterday, and in the evening especially, the enemy appeared to be in the greatest confusion and distress, invironed on every side by our army, their baggage scattered and a good deal of it destroyed by themselves. A great number of their horses are killed on the road, and several hundred barrells of provisions fallen into our hands. Our army the last night lay on their arms to renew the attack this morning. What will be the events of the day God only knows. But in all probability it will end in at lest the total loss of all the enemy's artillery, stores, and baggage, if not of the greater part of their army. I cannot well conceive of an army's being bro't into a worse situation than that of the enemy's. But the fate of it will be fully known in two or three days. May it please a mercifull God to grant that the kindest events may take place as it respects ourselves. It is my belief that the events of the campagn in this quarter will open to us the brightest schene, and will involve in it consequences which will fully establish the American Independency; and altho our affairs put on a disagreable aspect in other parts, yet an aurora borealis from this qua[r]ter will dispell the dismal gloom. I expect soon to be soon discharged. But before that time I hope I may have the pleasure to congratulate your Excellency on the full establishment of our affairs in this Department, except the recapture of Ticonderoga, &c., which I hope will before long be also effected.

I am your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

OLIVER WOLCOTT.

GOV. TRUMBULL.

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P. S. We took on the 7th four artillery wagons.

The enemy in their retreat have burnt Genl Schuyler house, barn, mills, and the barracks; and in their progress have burnt the house of every man who has been reputed friendly to his country.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SAMUEL H. PARSONS.*

HARTFORD, 11th Octo., 1777, 7 o'clk., A. M.

DEAR GENERAL, — Yours of the 9th inst, at Fishkill, came to hand this moment. Events that seem to be against us are often overruled by the Almighty and Supreme Director of them all to be for our benefit. It, however, becomes us under such as are adverse to be humble, patient, and persevering in duty. May we sett up our banners in the name of the Lord, and our eyes wait on Him for salvation. The Assembly will be together here this morning. Your letter will be laid before them. May Heavenly Wisdom direct their measures. It was judged most prudent for the Assembly to adjourn to this place before any business was taken up. Wishing you and all in comand the divine direction, influence, and protection, and the soldiery spirit and resolution to play the man for God and for the cities of our God, and that He may grant victory, and success,

With my compliments to Genl Putnam, &c., I am, Sir,

Your obedt.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

ALBANY, 14th Octo, 1777.

HONR SIR, — I wrote you pr Capt Treat, going to N. Haven; since that have had no opportunity till this. I

* Printed from the rough draught, in Governor Trumbull's handwriting at the foot of General Parsons's letter, *ante*, p. 155. — EDS.

† Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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have only a moment now, and little to say more than that the enemy seem to be in a very secure situation for us, being near compleatly surrounded by great numbers, apparently sufficient on all sides. From present appearances we have great reason to expect M^r^ Burgoyne in Albany soon, tho' not in the way he has expected. The enemy got no farther than Saratoga, where they now lie. They have left, burned, and destroyed great quantities of stores, provisions, tents, medicines, ammunition, boats, shot, lead, &c., &c., and are now probably reduced to very scant allowance. General Gates is so secure of possessing them that he has little thoughts of attacking them, unless provoked to it by being attacked. Deserters and prisoners continually coming in. The enemy burned Gen^l^ Schuyler's house, outhouses and mills, barracks, &c. In the action of 7^th^ Brig^r^ General Frazier was killed. His death is esteemed a great loss to M^r^ Burgoyne, being accounted an experienced officer and much depended on by Burgoyne. Maj^r^ Ackland, the famous speaker in Parliament, is now in town, his lady, daughter to Earl of Ilchester, is with him. Sir Francis Carr Clark, Burgoyne's aid, is likely to die, — this a gentleman of great fortune & interest in England. Maj^r^ Williams of the train is in town and some others. Our two wounded Generals seem in a fair way. Their activity and exertions are much needed at this time.

Your most affectionate son.

JON^TH^ TRUMBULL, JUN^R^.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, 15^th^ Oct^o^, 1777.

HON^D^ SIR, — I wrote you yesterday p^r^ a chance opportunity, giving you an account of our prospects. The letter was gone but few hours when we were informed

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of General Burgoyne having sent a flag to General Gates, begging for the prevention of further effusion of blood that General Gates would make some proposal of terms, acknowledging the superiority of our numbers and his own defenceless situation. General Gates immediately made him a reply that he with his whole army must submit to be prisoners of war; that he should have his baggage; the public stores to be delivered up, and that hostilities should cease till evening (last night) to wait his answer. This morning our hearts are gladdened with the news that Burgoyne has submitted to the above terms, that the whole army is to lay down their arms this day; the particulars of their numbers, stores, &c., &c., we are anxiously waiting for. Thus has Providence done great things for us, wherefor our hearts are glad. May they be truly thankful, and may the people be enabled to make suitable improvement of this wonderful and very singular event, wherein the good hand of our God is most signally displayed. Yesterday 53 Indians were taken by our parties at Fort Edward. One of the rascals after having surrendered, in attempting the life of the person who had taken him, was himself killed; besides a number of Tories and refugees were also taken.

17th. I waited impatiently yesterday for the Articles of Capitulation but was disappointed. This morning the committee of the city have recieved letter from Gen Gates in which he says: "General Burgoyne, after a variety of delays, has just now agreed to and signed the Articles of Capitulation." General Gates does not mention the terms; a variety of reports prevail; I will give none; hope soon to have the certainty.

General Sir Harry Clinton is maneuvering in the river with his fleet and army. Yesterday in the afternoon he was landing or making a feint to land near Kingston. His attempts to relieve Mr Burgoyne are now too late. As soon as he hears the fate of the latter I fancy he will

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take himself down the river, without further molestation. He has given great distress to the inhabitants on the banks of this river, and may probably burn the town of Esopus. It seems Gov^r^ Clinton has not force sufficient to meet him. Sir Francis Carr Clark was yesterday interred in the English Church of this city. Our wounded Generals continue to do very well.

Most dutifully, Sir,

Your most obedient son.

Gov^r^ TRUMBULL. J. TRUMBULL, JUN^R^.

ISRAEL PUTNAM TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. To His Excellency Gov^r^ Trumbull at Hartford, Connecticut. P^r^ Col. Chester.

FISHKILL, Oct^r^ 15^th^, 1777, 9 o'clock, P. M.

DEAR GOVERNOR, — I recev^d^ your fav^r^ pr Col. Chester & congratulate you on the success of our arms to the northward, & could wish they had been equally so in every other part. Fort Mountgomery was lost not for want of exertions in the garrison, but merely for want of men. About forty sail, small & great, passed by here today, crowded with troops. A number more I understand are coming up. Their main force I immagine are standing for Albany to releive Gen^l^ Burgoine if possible; but I hope before this he is past being helped. Shall march tomorrow morning for Albany, with Col. Ch^s^ Webb's & Col. Wyllys's reg^ts^ & Gen^l^ Silliman's & Ward's brigades, excepting about a thousand detached from those brigades now with Gen^l^ Parsons at Peeks Kill. Gen^l^ Silliman's brigade contains about 1,500, Gen^l^ Ward's about 2,000 rank & file, exclusive of commission^d^ & non commis^d^ officers. Gen^l^ Parsons will remain at Peeks Kill with a two thousand troops. There are beside a number of volunteer companies, amounting perhaps to two or three hundred men, part here & part w^th^ Gen^l^ Parsons.

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Letters from Gen^{l} Washington of the 8th say, in consequence of a concerted plan he marched on Friday night last to attack Gen^{l} How's army, which lay at 12 or 13 miles distance. He drove in their picquets about 6 in the morning; the men pursued with great eagerness & bravery & surmounted every opposition; the enemy were routed in the greatest confusion. Several miles he passed thro' their encampments & took some peices of cannon; in short, to use his Excellency's own words, we were flattered with every appearance of a most glorious & decisive action when to my great surprise our men began to give way & when the line was once broke became pretty general & could not with our utmost exertions be prevented, & the only thing left was to draw them off in the best order we could, which was effected without any very considerable loss, as we bro^{t} of our cannon, &c. Gen^{l} Nash of the Carolina troops was mortally wounded & several others of great bravery but inferior note. The accounts from Philadelphia, he says, are that 200 waggon load of wounded were bro^{t} in there, Gen^{l} Agnew killed, Gen^{s} Erskine & Grant badly wounded, beside several Col^{s} & officers of inferior rank of the enemy. This action here convinced our people that when they attack they can confuse & rout the flower of the British army & that they are not so invincible as many suppose them.

I sent an express to Gen^{l} Gates last Sunday with orders to ride night & day, who is not returned. The enemy has demolished all the forts except Fort Clinton & burnt our barracks at the Continental Village & many other buildings. The troops in general are healthy & appear in good spirits. With high esteem & respect, I have the hon^{r} to be your Excellency's obed^{t}, humble servant.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

His Excellency Gov. TRUMBULL.

P. S. There are about three hundred militia light horse, part with Gen^{l} Parsons & part with me.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, 19th Octor, 1777.

HONR SIR, — At the request of Major General Gates I enclose you copy of Articles of Convention between Lieut General Burgoyne and himself. The General is so exceedingly busied with a thousand matters that he begs me to make this enclosure, and at same time make this excuse for his not writing himself.

We are in great distress for want of money to pay off our brave fellows who have so nobly contended. I have sent two expresses to Congress, but no money yet comes. I am afraid we shall fall short even for the contingencies of the army. In this distress the General has ordered me to write you, if it be possible in any way to furnish us any sum on general account with the States, or on loan until we can repay. If any sum can be supplied Mr Van Vechten, the bearer of this, who comes on account of the D. Commissary General, will take charge of it, and give his receipt for its delivery, which will be sufficient security to you. Lieut General Burgoyne, Majr General Reidtsels, &c., with their suits are now in this town. Their troops are on their march to Boston.

Majr General Gates is also arrived, with part of his army, & is making the proper dispositions, if not to catch, at lest to drive away, the robbing, plundering, burning General Clinton from the river.

I am, hond Sir,
Your most dutiful son,
JONTH TRUMBULL, JUNR.

P. S. Are any of our Delegates returned into Connecticut from Congress?

GOVR TRUMBULL.

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JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL.

To Joseph Trumbull, Esquire, Windham.

HEAD QUARTERS, WORCESTER, 19th Octo^{r}, 1777.

DEAR SIR, — We are with our main body here about 21 miles from Philad^{a}. Some circumstances yesterday induced us to think the enemy intended a retreat from Philad^{a} to their shipping. A large party march this morning to observe them, to provoke them to come out to us, or to act as the case may require. I hope the satisfaction of giving you some good account of them before many days. Nothing could fit our troops for action like the joyfull news from Gates. Our southern brethren are eager for an opportunity to play a counterpart; they would gladly, I believe, dispose of the enemy in a different manner. The shipping & forts in the river have made a gallant defence, and all our informants agree that the army & city despair of opening the navigation of the river. The officers begin to curse Galloway & others who had made them believe very different things. Remember me to sister, &c.

Your affectionate brother,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

Colonel TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Oct^{r} 19th, 1777. General Jed. Huntington, *de* situation & spirit of our army near Phil^{a}.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, 20th October, 1777.

HON^{D} SIR, — I wrote you yesterday p^{r} Maj^{r} Van Vechten. No material occurrence has turned up since. I trust, however, our Department will not be wholly barren of events thro' the remainder of the season. Time will

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discover whether Ty—— and its dependences fall a sacrifice in consequence of our already obtained great successes. Our army is all arrived in town, except such part as are left for operations northward and those who are escorts for the disarmed Britons and foreigners.

2,442 of the former and 2,198 of the latter are on their way to Boston, exclusive of Canadians, Tories, &c., making in the whole about 6,000 who surrendered on the Articles of Convention; 35 fine pieces of brass cannon and 5,000 stand of arms are part of our trophies of victory. We are now under no apprehensions from the robbers below us. A flag from General Gates gone off yesterday will probably make *them* fear in turn.

Your most dutiful son,

J. TRUMBULL, JUN^{R}.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL.

WHIPPAN, HEAD QUARTERS, 16 miles from Philad^{a}.
21 Octo^{r}, 1777.

L^{d} Sterling's & M^{c}Dougall's division cross the Schuylkill this day on a party. The whole army will move nearer the enemy today or tomorrow. The enemy have collected themselves in the city, & from present appearances intend to make further attempts upon the cheveaux de frise, which I think will prove fruitless. Perhaps they will storm the forts. If they do I make no doubt the attempt will be very tragick, as the forts are well manned with determined troops.

My *near* friend Nancy Moore * is in distress, turned out from her home by the conqueror. As Jere Wadsworth is nearest of my friends I have begged him to send for & patronize her for the present. If he cannot, I have desired him to let you know, and as you love me will

* This is the lady to whom the writer was married in the following spring. — EDS.

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you bring her to your house & consider her as your sister. I shall more ardently than ever desire to hear from you after she makes one of your family. I suppose Jere will be able. I doubt not his willingness to comply with my request & for reasons which I can hereafter explain I had rather for the present she should be at his house than yours.

I am, dear Sir, most affectionately your brother,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 16 miles from Philad^{a}, 24th Octo^{r}, 1777.

HON^{D} SIR, — Since the date of your esteemed favour p Brown, our happiness has been completed as to the success of our northern army. Every face brightens, I wish every heart expanded with a becoming joy on the occasion. I flatter myself this glorious event will cause the scale so far to preponderate that the British Ministry will despair of further operations in the field; in that case, as they must have an alternative, they will probably recur to a negotiation & try their art & abilities on that ground. Here they surpass us in experience and means and will undoubtedly enthrall us, unless divine Goodness continue the same watchfull care of us that we have hitherto experienced.

General Howe has been more the savage since his landing at Elk than ever before. He makes Whigs wherever he marches.

The 22^{d} the enemy sent a body of troops from 1,500 to 2,500 (so much accounts disagree) to storm the fort at Red Bank, one of the great obstacles to their navigation in the river, as they come under it in order to work upon the cheveaux de frise. Just before this party landed on the Jersey side, a reinforcement from our army and a supply of amunition got into the fort. These troops

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were principally Hessians and are fit cattle for a desperate attack. The fire was as hot perhaps as was ever known on such an occasion.

The state of the loss of the general officers on the side of the enemy, after a variety of different stories, seems to stand thus: General Agneau, dead & buried in a field at Germantown; Kniphausen or some other Hessian badly wounded; the officer dangerously wounded, who we hoped was S^{r} W^{m} Erskine, is a certain Lord Murray, or S^{r} George.

Our General Woodford who was wounded at Brandywine is returned to duty and is an officer well esteemed.

A furious cannonade was heard from the river yesterday, and a great explosion. The vague accounts this morning are that the Augusta of 64 guns & the Apollo frigate were blown up & burnt to the water's edge by our fire rafts.

P. M. I have the pleasure to transmit you some particulars of the attack on our important fortress at Red Bank. Col. Green of Rhode Island was commandant of the fort. Upon the approach of the enemy he concealed the most of his men in his outworks & showed the assailants only about fifty men in the fort. The enemy advanced with great assurance & seeing so few men told them to surrender, that they were all prisoners. When they were within 15 yards of the fort Col. Green ordered his troops to fire, which was done with admirable effect; the Hessians were struck with the greatest confusion & retreated with the utmost precipitation twelve miles before they made any halt. They left about two hundred killed & wounded, among whom is their famous Count Donop wounded in his thigh. Our loss was inconsiderable. The enemy carried up 16 pieces of cannon & brout back only 6; the others we suppose they have thrown into some creek or pond. So great was the consternation that they marched 38 miles the day they left the fort.

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We take post nearer the enemy this day or tomorrow. Please to remember me to all as is due, from, hon[d] Sir,

Your affectionate son & most obed[t] servant,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 24 Oct[o], 1777. Brig[r] Huntington; *de* the Red Bank & ship affair, &c., rec[d] 14[th] Nov[r], 1777.

RETURN J. MEIGS* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq., Governor of the State of Connecticut.

PECKSKILL, Octo[r] 25[th], 1777.

SIR, — The regiment which I now have the honor to command I am inform'd receiv'd their uniform cloathing by application to your Excellency. The small cloathing I hope we shall soon be supply'd with, in consequence of the provision making by the towns, but coats & breeches, I suppose, must come from some other quarter. The coats & breeches which are wanted now exceedingly in the regiment amounts agreeable to a return this day, coats 41, breeches 230 pairs; this number have only linnen trowsers or overhauls which are nearly worn out. I was in hopes to have had a supply from the Cloathier General, but the late situation of things has hinder'd transportation between us & Philadelphia, & I believe cloathing is not to be had at the southward now. I must therefore beg leave to apply to your Excellency for our present supply. It is the opinion of those that I have conversed with on the subject, that the regiments cannot be supplyd with cloathing while our trade is ob-

* Return Jonathan Meigs was born in Middletown, Conn., Dec. 17, 1734, entered the American army on the outbreak of hostilities, and accompanied Arnold in the expedition against Quebec, where he was taken prisoner. After being exchanged he served at various places, and in 1788 settled in Ohio. In 1801 he was appointed Indian Agent for the Cherokees, and passed the remainder of his life among them. He died at the agency in Georgia, Jan. 28, 1823. — See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iv. p. 288. — EDS.

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structed, unless each regiment can have an agent to procure cloathing; as the regimental uniforms are different, the agents would not interfere with each other in procuring the principal cloathing. The health of the men suffers, & of course the publick service, for want of a certain place to apply for cloathing in season. I should be very unwilling to trouble your Excellency with any unnecessary application, but my duty to the men & to the publick is my only motive. I have had more than one hundred men without shoes intirely, till within a few days, & have a considerable number still barefoot, but expect the small cloathing on every day. But where the coats & breeches will come from I cannot tell, unless your Excellency can order them.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

RETURN JONA MEIGS.

The regimental coats are blue faced with white.

HORATIO GATES TO LORD THANET.*

ALBANY, 26th October, 1777.

MY LORD, — Presuming upon our former friendship and acquaintance, I take the liberty to address this letter to your Lordship, — General Burgoyne having assured me it shall be faithfully delivered. The very important event of the campaign so far as it respects General Burgoyne and myself will by the unexagerated voice of truth be related to your Lordship, for what less can be said of it than that the King's army which left Canada in June are all either killed, taken, or surrendered themselves

* Printed from a copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. Sackville Tufton, 8th Earl of Thanet, born in 1738, is occasionally mentioned in Horace Walpole's Letters, and died April 10, 1786. He was succeeded in the earldom successively by his three sons. On the death of the youngest, unmarried, in 1849, the title became extinct. — EDS.

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prisoners under the Convention of Saratoga. How this compleat victory has been used, with respect to the behaviour of the conquerors to the vanquished, General Burgoyne and Lord Petersham will, as they are soldiers and men of honor, declare. But to the main design of my addressing this letter to your Lordship. Born in England I cannot help feeling for the misfortune brought upon my country by the wickedness of that administration who begun and have continued this most unjust, impolitic, cruel, and unnatural war.

The dismemberment of the empire, the loss of commerce, the loss of power and consequence amongst the nations, with the downfall of public credit, are only the beginning of those evils that must inevitably be followed by a thousand more, unless some lenient hand, some great state physician, with the firmness, integrity, and ability of a Chatham, joined to the wisdom, virtue, and justice of a Campden, aided and supported by such men as your Lordship, — men as independent in their fortune, as unsullied in their honor, and who have not bowed their heads to Baal. Such a man, so supported, may yet save the sinking state, by confirming that independency which the people of this continent are resolved only to part with when they leave the world. Such a man will do what all wise statesmen have done before him, he will be true to the welfare and interest of his country, and by rescinding that which no power on earth can establish, he will endeavour to preserve so much of the empire in prosperity and honor as the circumstances of the times and the maladministration of those who ruled before him has left to his government.

The United States of America are willing to be the friends, but will never submit to be the slaves of the parent country. They are by consanguinity, by commerce, by language, and by affection which naturally springs from these, more attached to England than any country

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under the sun. Therefore spurn not the blessings which yet remain. Instantly withdraw your fleets and armies. Cultivate the friendship and commerce of America. Thus, and thus only, can England hope to be great and happy. Seek that in commercial alliance, seek it e'er it be too late, for there alone you must expect to find it.

These, my Lord, are the undisguised sentiments of a man that rejoices not in the blood shed in this fatal contest, — of a man who glories in the name of Englishman, and of a man who wishes to see commerce, peace, and friendship between Great Britain and America fixed upon the firmest foundation.

Our friend General Lee has suffered a long and severe confinement, but the hour is at hand that forces General Howe to that which he must forever blush for not having done before. The pride not the power of the King's generals prevents me from being more particular as to the immediate situation of the man you so much regarded. I beg your Lordship will present my affectionate compliments to Hall and Sir Charles Davies.

With the greatest respect, I have the honor to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant.

HORATIO GATES.

EARLE THANET.

JOHN DOUGLAS* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jn° Trumbull Esq^r, Lebanon.

TIVERTOWN, Oct 28th, 1777.

HON^D SIR, — When I wrote last I flatterd myself that before this time I should have had something more agree-

* John Douglas was an active and influential citizen of Plainfield, Conn., who served as a delegate to the General Assembly, and took a prominent part in town affairs. In May, 1777, he was appointed Brigadier General of militia, and in that capacity he was employed under General Spencer in the expedition against Rhode Island. See Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776, — Feb., 1778, p. 262; Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, *passim*; Larned's History of Windham County, *passim*. — EDS.

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able to write, but have the mortification to inform that, after all the fateague & expence that has been made, the expedition is given over without affecting the purpose.

The troops from the different States were generally on the ground before those from Connecticut, and it was propigated thro the army that they only waited for Connecticut troops. But that was not the case. Our men was on the ground before it was possible to prepare & collect the boats from the different parts, and to make the destribution & other preparations that were necessary for the expedition, and I should not do justice to officers or men if I did not say they have so conducted that I have the satisfaction to think they are in as good standing as any part of the army without exception.

The necessary preparations were so far compleated and the prospect so good that the differant brigades were ordered to perade on Thursday, the 16th inst, ready for embarkation, which they did and appeard in good spirits, especially the Connecticut & Rhod Island brigades. But on the whole it was found that many preparations were still absolutely necessary to be made before it would be anywise justifiable to embarke, for which reasons the troops were order'd to their quarters that night; the night following proved stormy & so continued the next day untill too late to collect an army like this, scatterd for want of tents or barracks perhaps not less than 16 or 18 miles distant.

They were orderd in again Sunday night, the 19th inst, & peraded on the shoar at their boats below Fogland Ferry; the boats all properly placed, except a part that belonged to Generals Palmer & Lovel who were so late in coming round the Point that by the light of the moon they were discoverd & fired upon by the enemy & one man killd, & many of their boats never came up. And what was still unfavourable to our design there was so great a southerly wind that it was judged impracticable

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for boats to pass with troops at that time; it was also fair to bring the man of war instantly among us, who then lay not more than 2 or 3 miles distant. From the movements of that night the enemy discoverd where the attact was to have been made, and the next Tuesday two ships and a tender was sent to block our proceeding in that way. It was then judg'd best to attact in a differant quarter (viz) between Fogland & Howland ferry; the weather unfavourable untill Thursday, the 23rd inst., on which the troops were orderd in & with much fateague the boats were carried & drawn about 120 rods by land, from the head of one creek to another, & moved to the place agreed on for embarkation. The night proved wet & so great an appearance of a storm that it was not judg'd prudent to proceed; after which many of the militia from ye Massachusetts & Rhoad Island States whose times were near out began to desert, as twas said, thro fear they should be detaind on the Island beyound their limited time. The weather still unfavourable no movment was made untill Sunday, the 26th, when all were orderd to perade again near the place of embarkation and the numbers to be taken; & by reason of sickness & desertion no more could be collected than 5,367, including officers & boatmen, and many of them too much disaffected to be rely'd on.

The weather still wet and likely so to continue a council was again called, at which the Genl and commanding officers of regts were present, and calld upon to give their *sentiments*, and were unanimously of the opinion that the time is so far spent, the army depreciated, and many of them to[o] much disaffected to be rely'd on, under the present situation of affairs it was not justifiable to make further attempts to push the expedition at this time; and altho I am sensible that Genl Spencer, who has appeard anxiously engag'd in the affair, did every thing to expedite he was capable of doing, yet it was not

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in his power to have the necessary preparations compleated sooner than about the time above mentioned; since which by the appearance of the wind and weather on which our success did much depend, the stars in their courses have appeard to be against our proceeding; and altho I am sensible that the judgment of the vulgar part of the world is generally form'd according to the success of the enterprise, yet the more candid, whose esteeme I ever wish to merit, I trust will at least suspend their judgment untill rightly inform'd of the true state of affairs, on which I am free to risque my reputation, who have the honour to be

Your Excellency's hum^le^ serv^t^.

J. DOUGLAS.

Indorsed: 28^th^ Oct., 1777. Brigadier Douglass, *de* Rhode Island Expedition, rec^d^ p Maj^r^ Kingsbury.

ISRAEL PUTNAM TO HORATIO GATES.*

HEAD QUARTERS, FISHKILL, 31^st^ Oct^o^, 1777.

DEAR GENERAL, — Before this I make no doubt but you'll have had the information of the enemy's evacuating Forts Montgomery, Clinton, & Constitution of the 27^th^ ins^t^, & proceeding down the river with the utmost dispatch, which movement I apprehended was occasioned by a request from General How to Gen^l^ Sir Harry Clinton to imediately reinforce him with four thousand troops. This movement of the enemy I considered a matter of the utmost importance, therefore called together a Councill of Warr to fix & determine upon the most effectual measures of disposing of the troops sent down by you, &

* This letter, the proceedings of the Council of War, and Gates's letter which follows are printed from copies, in the handwriting of Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., on three sides of a sheet of foolscap paper. On the last page are the words "for Gov^r^ Trumbull," and the indorsement "Copies from & to Maj^r^ Gen^l^ Putnam," all in the same hand. These copies may be the inclosures referred to in Trumbull's letter of Nov. 6, *post*, p. 185. — EDS.

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those att this post, the proceed^{s} of which you have a copy inclosed, & am with much respect, d^{r} General,

Your assured friend,

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

The Hon^{ble} Major Gen^{l} GATES.

Proceedings of a Council of War.

HEAD QUARTERS, FISHKILL, Oct^{o} 31st, 1777.

At a Council of War convened by order of the Hon^{o} Major Gen^{l} Putnam.

Information being given to the Council by Gen^{l} Putnam that the enemy's fleet had gone down the river to N. York; that they had demolished Forts Clinton, Montgomery in the Highlands & distroyed the barracks & other public build^{gs} att Peekskill; that by deserters & others from the enemy, 4,000 men are ordered from N. York to reinforce Gen^{l} How; that a considerable reinforcement from Gen^{l} Gates is near; together with several other articles of intelligence respecting our own & the enemy's strength & scituation, — the Gen^{l} requested the Council to give their opinion what steps will next be necessary, keep^{g} in view three particular points, viz^{t}, the speedy reinforcing Gen^{l} Washington in case of need, defending & repairing the posts on the Highlands, & as far as in our power divert^{g} the enemy from reinforce^{g} Gen^{l} How, likewise to be ready to act offensively if called against the enemy.

The Council were unanimously of opinion that 4,000 men move down the west side of Hudson's river, & take post att or near Haverstraw; that 1,000 remain in the Highlands to cover the country or repair the works as the Gen^{l} may direct, the remainder to march as soon as possible towards Kingsbridge for the purpose before mentioned, & that Col^{o} Morgan's corps of riflemen, which is considered as part of the 4,000 to move down on the west

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side of Hudson's River, be imediately to march with all expedition to join his Excellency Gen^{l} Washington.

GEO. CLINTON
J. CLINTON, *B. G.*
W^{m} WINDS, *B. G.*
W^{m} MALCOM, *Col^{o}*
SAM^{L} WYLLYS, *Col^{o}*
JOHN LAMB, *Col^{o}*
LEWIS DUBOIS, *Col^{o}*
S. B. WEBB, *Col^{o}*
DAN^{L} MORGAN, *Col^{o}*.

Copy.

HORATIO GATES TO ISRAEL PUTNAM.

ALBANY, 2^{d} Nov^{r}, 1777.

DEAR SIR, — Governor Clinton will present you my letter to him of this date,* which contains my unalterable sentiments of the measures that ought to be taken, should Sir Harry Clinton attempt to succour or reinforce Sir W^{m} Howe. I will not again repeat them here, but only take the liberty earnestly to recomend the profoundest secresy in whatever you determine to do; for depend upon it, that that consumate artfull woman M^{rs} Robinson, will do all in her power to be acquainted with your *secrets*.

As to any attack upon N. York, I utterly disapprove of it, for while the enemy's ships of war can act in the North & East Rivers the taking that city would be doubtfull, &, if taken, could not be held, and be assured that all stores of any value to us, is, or will be, afloat before any large detachments leave that city, and I see no good in tak^{g} an empty town we cannot hold, — of course it is not an object to divert the attention of the King's Generals from their more important designs.

I am, dear Sir, &c.

H. GATES.

Copy.

* There is no copy of the letter referred to in the Trumbull Papers, and it is not printed in the Public Papers of George Clinton. — EDS.

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SAMUEL H. PARSONS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HORSNECK, 2d Novr, 1777.

SIR, — A set of villains having harbourd at West Chester the summer past whose business has been to plunder the unarmd inhabitants of the country, & by their depredations had totally ruind many reputable & wealthy families, I formd a design to secure & break up these banditti, & for this purpose detachd about 150 men under the command of Lt Col. Smith of Col. Enos's regt, with Captains Leavingworth & Ely of Meigs's regiment & Pettibone of Enos's, the 29th inst, & orderd them to march down before my brigade (which was under orders to remove to the Plains) that no previous inteligence might be given; the 30th they arivd at Wright's Mills, about 18 miles from West Chester, & in the ev'ning began their march & arivd at the place a little before daylight; dividing into three parts they at the same time surrounded almost every house in the place; made prisoners six of the enemy's light horse, about thirty of the band of horse thieves & cow drivers, & six of the militia; took & brought off about forty head of cattle & horses, about forty fire arms & sundry other articles of value, burnd three vessells loaden with provisions for New York, & returnd to this place about 1 o'clock yesterday, having in about forty hours performd a march of sixty miles & finishd in a most successful manner the business on which they were sent, within about two miles of the enemy's works, without any the least loss. To this part of the country this is an important & interesting stroke, as it in a great measure sets the inhabitants at rest from the ravages of the most unprincipled wretches which ever disgracd a country. The Captains & other officers as well as Colo Smith, who commanded, have great merit in the execution of this business. Since this a small party of our militia light horse,

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under the direction of Major Bowne, a volunteer, have taken two prisoners within a small distance of the enemies lines, one belonging to the enemy's light horse, the other to Fanning's regiment. The army are moving down towards the posts at & near King's Bridge, which will effectually cover the frontiers of the State from the ravages of the enemy. In this station light horsmen are exceedingly wanted; I have at present only four with me, which puts it out of my power so effectually to harrass the enemy & answer other valuable purposes as the interest & safety of the country requires. I would therefore beg your Excellency to order me ten or twelve of the light horse of the State, which is the least number any person acquainted with this post will think necessary. If M^r^ Bushnell's projection for destroying the shipping can ever be of any use it can't be improv^d^ at any time to greater advantage than the present, nor at any place more likely to succeed than at this post.

Cloathing for the troops is now much wanted, especially shoes, stockings, & breeches, and will be very soon much more wanted. As this must be an object of great attention properly to supply the troops of the State, I would propose to your Excellency the appointment of an agent for every regiment who shall attend to the supply of that only; in this case more attention will be paid to the supplies than can be done in the present mode & every kind of clothing properly sorted. As the uniforms are different they will not interfere, but mutually aid one another in their purchases. Our men are almost all barefoot & there's great plenty of leather, but none to be sold in this place. One man is posses^d^ of a sufficiency for a regiment. I must beg some directions how I may possess myself of it for the benefit of the troops. Flower is also much wanted, not from a scarcity of grain, but because no man will sell; in this town there are many thousand bushels of wheat, own^d^ by disaffected persons who refuse

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to part with a single bushel. If some way is not taken to open these stores we must soon suffer; I am very unwilling to take any measures to effect this which will savor of military government, especially as the property is within the jurisdiction of a State in the full exercise of all the powers of government in the old establish^{d} mode & the Legislative body now sitting.

I beg leave again to remind your Excellency of the great need there is of filling the vacancies in Meigs's reg^{t} & that now commanded by L^{t} Col^{o} Prentice; the rank of the field officers as settled I some time since transmitted to your Excellency, which you have doubtless receiv^{d}.

Cap^{t} Leavingworth, I think, is in rank the first or second Captain from the State & an officer of an enterprizing turn, a very good disciplinarian & well calculated to discharge the duty of a Major. If such vacancy should be made by promotions, I beg leave to recommend him to your notice & consideration.

I am, y^{r} Excellency's
most obed^{t}, h^{e} serv^{t}.
Sam^{l} H. Parsons.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR. TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Albany, 6th Novem^{r}, 1777.

Hon^{d} Sir, — I wrote you the 4th inst p an uncertain conveyance, which I hope has reached. In that I expressed my surprize att hearing nothing from Connecticut since our late happy successes. The General is very uneasy least you are offended with him for not writing himself & send^{s} the Articles of Convention under his *own hand.* Yet he thinks you cannot be displeased, when you figure to yourself the weight of business which must then have been on his hands, which he thinks you are able to conceive from your own experience; his mind seems agi-

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tated, however, from the frequency of his mentioning the matter, & being anxious to hear, he thot *my* send^{g} & the excuse I made would have been sufficient.

The *inclosures* I have from the General's favor for your sight. I am sorry I had not an earlier opportunity; they may be *new* yet.

Yesterday arrived in town Col^{o} Hamilton, Aid to Gen^{l} Washington, & Cap^{t} Gibbs of his Guards, in consequence of the good tidings from this quarter. The Gen^{l} & army below seem exceedingly pleased with our exploits, especially as our own work being finished they expect some assistance from the northern heroes. Our good old General had sent off two brigades, which are now (I suppose in Jersies), & another is going off in consequence of the late request. We have by these gentlemen a confirmation of the enemy's defeat in a late attack upon Red Bank & a subsequent one on Muddy Island, in the latter of which a 64 gun ship was by some means blown up, & the Appollo, a 32 gun frigate, the same that brot over Gen^{l} Burgoyne last spring, was run on shore & burned. In the first attack the enemy were repulsed with the loss of about 400 killed & wounded, & 150 taken, among whom Col^{o} Donop, the comandant, was wounded & left on the field with his Major brigade, &c. 27 guns, 24 lb^{s}, were saved from the 64, & others, tis expected, will be found.

The reinforcements going from N. York to join How are gone by water to the Delaware. Hope they will meet the same disappointment that Clinton did in his expectations of succour to Burgoyne.

An embassy of Indians from S^{t} Francois in Canada are now in town; the *Oneidas* are expected in a day or two.

I am requested by the General to ask the disposition that has been made of the old arms which were sent from hence last spring, whether repaired, & what are gone

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with them; also whether you would be desirous to receive for repairs a number more, how many & how expeditiously they may be repaired. Numbers of our lately acquired arms are in a broken condition.

What is gone with the Newport expedition? We hear nothing from it, save that Doct. Gordon writes, the 27th ulto., that he conjectures it has vanished in the air, not hav^{e} had any acc^{o} att that date.

I have had nothing yet from M^{r} Hancock; money not yet arrived, is near by, on the road.

Our Generals' broken legs continue in a very good way.

7th *Novem^{r}*. — Money arrived last evening, am very busy this day, hope to be in Connecticut in all this month. Gen^{l} Glover's brigade, in addition to the others I mentioned, are under orders for the southern army. I hope they will be able to *drive M^{r} How* when the *whole continent* are collected. Our successes this way I hope will rouse a spirit of emulation in the minds of the *militia* in Southern States.

We wonder much what is gone with Newport expedition.

Your most dutifull son.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL. J. TRUMBULL, JUN^{R}.

JESSE ROOT* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. To His Excellency Gov^{r} Trumbull, at Lebanon.

HARTFORD, Nov^{r} 7th, 1777.

PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — Gen. Putnam requested Gen^{l} Gates to send him a reinforcement of two or three

* Jesse Root, a member of the Continental Congress from 1778 to 1783, and Chief Justice of Connecticut from 1796 to 1807, was born in Coventry, Conn., Dec. 28, 1736, graduated at Princeton in 1756, preached for several years and then studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1763. On the breaking out of the war he entered the army and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He died in his native town March 29, 1822. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. v. p. 320; Lanman's Biographical Annals, pp. 364, 487; Drake's Dictionary of American Biography, p. 781. — EDS.

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brigades, if to be spared, & some heavy artillery, & receive[d] for answer that his request was granted. I left Fishkill last Tuesday morning. Gen[ls] Poor & Warner were arrived, Larnard & Patterson were on their way down, Col Morgan had passed on to Gen[l] Washington. Sunday last Col. Hamilton, one of Gen[l] Washington's Aid de Camps, came to Gen[l] Putnam's with letters & instructions from Gen[l] Washington. He says, Gen[l] How keeps open a communication with his fleet which lyes below Chester, & Gen[l] Washington is unable to prevent it, without a considerable reinforcement; for it would be of no consequence to send a light body below, & to detach any heavy body of troops would too much weaken & endanger the main army. Were he sufficiently reinforced, he immagines he could most certainly take Gen[l] How, unless he should carry the forts & chevaux de frise, which at present there seems to be not much danger off. In consequence of this Gen[l] Wind, with seven hundred Jersey militia, was ordered from N. Windsor, where he was lying, to Red Bank. The detachments of Col[s] Lee's & Jackson's regiments, Gen[l] Poor's brigade, Gen[l] Learnard & Patterson's brigades are all to join Gen[l] Washington. There will be left about eighteen hundred Continental troops & three thousand militia, exclusive of the N. York militia, provided Gen[l] Warner's brigade & the Hamshire militia in Gen[l] Larnard's brigade, whose time is out the 1[st] of next month are left, as is expected. A number of mortars & heavy artillery are come from the northward. In this view of things Gen[l] Putnam has in contemplation the taking of New York, & which may most certainly be done, as they are now weakened by sparing the reinforcement to Gen[l] How, in case about two or three thousand spirited volunteers from Connecticut would turn out & join, & that they would I have not the least doubt, were they assured the attack would be made in earnest; & that the attack will be made I am

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pretty certain, unless the situation of Gen[l] Washington should require the militia now on Hudson's River to go southward. This will be determined by the return of Col Hamilton from the northward, where he is to hasten on the reinforcement proposed, & is expected back to Fishkill this day. If Col Ely's reg[t] could be spared, they are allready raised, in case the expedition against N. York should go on. My son is just come home who left Fiskill half a day after I did; he says, a man passed through Litchfield yesterday, who told there, that he came direct from Gen[l] Washington, crossed the N. River at Peekskill, that there had been a gen[l] battle between Gen[l] Washington & How, & that Gen[l] How & his army were all made prisoners of war in the city of Philadelphia. This is only a storey, but so good a one that the trouble of writing it is compensated by the pleasure of thinking it may be true soon, if not now.

With grea[te]st respect & esteem I am your
Excellency's most obed[t], humble servant,
JESSE ROOT.

His Excellency Gov[r] TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Nov. 7[th], 1777. Col[o] Jesse Root, *de* Army, &c.

HORATIO GATES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, 8[th] Novem[r], 1777.

SIR, — It having been thought expedient to take so many regiments from this Department for the reinforcement of the Southern Army, I do not think there is any necessity to have so much artillery and small arms deposited at this arsenal, and therefore have determined to send thirty pieces of brass ordnance to Sheffield and three thousand stand of arms to Springfield, or such other towns in your State as your Excellency shall think proper, where

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they may be best and most conveniently repaired; but to do this I beg your Excellency will assist me with fifty ox teams and two hundred draught horses with drivers. They shall be paid so much for the trip out [and ?] home as your Excellency shall judge reasonable and they be contented with their wages. The persons who have the superintendency of teams and horses to be appointed by your Excellency.

Col° John Trumbull sends you all the news I know, and I constantly give him copies of such papers as I wish your Excellency to be acquainted with. Devoutly praying that the Great Being who has done all for us may continue his divine protection to our glorious cause, I rest, Sir,

Your Excellency's most hble. servant.

HORATIO GATES.

My affectionate compliments to Colonel Joseph & Col° Jn° Trumbull.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 10^th^ Nov^r, 1777.

HON^D^ SIR, — The army remains at White Marsh, and with the advantages of the ground would not be unwilling to receive the enemy; but we are possessed with such authentick accounts of their strength as forbid us to hazzard a general action on their ground. Whenever we are in force sufficient to risque the consequences, we shall cut off their communication with their ships at Chester, which will immediately lay them under the necessity of fighting. We thought to be able for this when we could be joined by a part of General Gates army, and General Washington had sent his Aid de Camp Colonel

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garrison in that very improper manner & to treat them accordingly. Ensign Crawford returns with Cap^{t} Clark, which makes it unnecessary to send a drum with him.

I am, Sir, your most obedient serv^{t}.

H. WATSON POWELL, *B. G.*

Col^{o} Herrick's Answer.

To the Hon^{ble} B. G. Powell, comand^{g} Mount Independance.

POULET, Nov^{r} 1st, 1777.

SIR, — By the time this comes to hand, I hope you will have recovered from the surprize with which you have been repeatedly affected since my correspondence with you. You impute my conduct to ignorance of the Rules of Warr. I hope, Sir, I have not been guilty of ill manners.

If you please, Sir, I am ready to conclude this trifling correspondence with you, provided you will quit the ground imediately on which you now pretend to teach me military rules. Otherwise I shall endeavour to convince you at the head of my Green Mountain boys, that your dominion is but temporary.

I am, &c.

SAM^{LL} HERRICK.

Col^{o} Comand^{t}.

Copy.

HORATIO GATES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

ALBANY, 15th Novem^{r}, 1777.

SIR, — As I conjectured, so it has happened. General Carleton has ordered Ticonderoga to be evacuated & destroyed. The families of some Tory officers in Canada, the persons whom the committee of this city thought proper to permit to retire to Canada, and the servants

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of the wounded British officers in the hospital here who were sent to Ty—— for their masters' baggage, are all returned, and report the ruin and desolation of that fortress. I am not displeased this event has taken place, since I was ordered to send such a very large detachment of the army from hence. Had General Carleton known that circumstance I do not think he would have abandoned Ty. this winter. I am, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient, hble. servant.

HORATIO GATES.

JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, 18th November, 1777.

HON^{D} SIR, — Since my last letter we have had the misfortune to loose Fort Mifflin. The garrison deserve the highest praise for the noble defence they have made; they did not abandon the place untill the enemies batteries on Province Island had dismounted all their guns, and a large floating battery of 24 twenty four pounders came so near as to fire musquetry from her tops upon the platforms of the fort. We have lost some gallant officers and men, among whom is Capt Brown of Col. Durkee's reg^{t}. I think he belongs to Killingsly. The enemy have now a passage for small vessells up to the city between the cheveaux de frise (which runs across the main channel) and Province Island. If the Jersey shore can be kept we shall yet command the channel so as to prevent their large ships.

I fear the weather will oblige us to quit the field and leave them in the quiet possession of the city. The northern troops are poorly enough clad and many of them barefooted and almost naked, but the southern are in much worse condition and much less able to endure the rigour of the season.

If the enemy can be prevented from laying in their

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magazines before the ice makes in the river they will think it unsafe to stay the winter in Philadelphia; at present, by the best accounts we have, they live only from hand to mouth, and that very indifferently, but as they consider the possession of Philadelphia a matter their honour is deeply concerned in, they will undoubtedly use every means and spare no exertions to effect the purpose.

What prospects has your Excellency as to another campaign? Our army wastes very fast, we can raise no recruits for money, because it ceases to be any consideration. Another campaign, if our currency continues to depreciate, will load the continent with an enormous debt that must be paid, perhaps when the money will have ten times it[s] present value. It seems to be almost the universal intention of the inferior officers to leave the service this winter, impelled by the necessities of their families. As to the soldiers I can do them the justice to say, there is a spirit of subjection and contentment among them that is wonderfull, considering the hardships they undergo and the little reward they have. But to return to the dark side of our affairs, — I see not how Congress will clothe their army. The time is near when every man expects a new suit; as yet the stipulation for the last year is not made good. Under these views, is it not expedient or rather absolutely necessary for the country to rise & make one grand effort? I wish your thoughts were communicated to Congress on this subject.

I am, with the greatest affection and esteem,

Your most obed[t] servant.

JED. HUNTINGTON.

Love to mother, son, &c.

Governor TRUMBULL.

P. S. Congress have appointed Colonel Pickering, General Mifflin, & Col. Harrison to the new Board of

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War; the Adjutancy General is thereby vacant. General Conway, Col. Fleming, Col. Jn° Trumbull, Col. Lee and others are in nomination. I have said as much to the General in favour of Col. Trumbull as I thought would be of service. I cannot find where his choice will fall. We are told that Jere. Wadsworth has, or is to succeed Gen[l] Mifflin as Q[r] M[r] Gen[l]. His acceptance will give great satisfaction to all who know him.

We are told by a gentleman from Sancta Croix that Capt. Weeks of Philadelphia, who fitted out a small fleet of privateers in France, has lately taken 53 sail of homeward bound Jamaica-men, and carried them into France; that the British ambassador after remonstrating, without receiving any satisfaction, had taken his departure without leave.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull.

ALBANY, 18th Novem[r], 1777.

HON[D] SIR, — I received yours p express dated 12th inst. The naval intelligence gives great pleasure. The copy of your letter to Congress, inclosed me, has been shewn the General; it gives him as much satisfaction as his to Lord Thanet does you. He thinks *they* want a *rubber* now & then, & thinks you have touched very close. Your gratulations to the good old General have touched the tender strings of his heart & excited very pleasing sensations. I enjoy his joy, & feel myself happy on the occasion. This letter came upon the back of dispatches from Congress, in which were conveyed, under cover of a letter from M[r] *President Lawrens*, the thanks of Congress in their own name & the behalf of the people of the thirteen United States to the General in particular & the officers & soldiers of the whole army in general, couched

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in very complaisant & full expressions; & to crown all, a resolution of Congress ordering a gold medal to be struck & presented to Gen[l] Gates by the President. Sundry resolutions of Congress were inclosed, respect[g] the regain[g] the posts and passes on the North River, also impow[g] the General to call on the N. England States for assistance sufficient to repossess the forts of Ty & Independance, all which was to be comitted to the General Gates direction, &c. In all these matters the wishes of Congress are anticipated by the enemy themselves evacuating *all*. Their resolutions also comitt to General Gates's care & direction the effectual stopping & obstructing the passage of the North River by water, as well as occupying the proper passes by land, against the next spring. This work remains to be done. I am happy tis comitted to so good hands; the powers are large & extensive; hope the obstruction will be effected upon a durable plan. General Putnam removes to the Grand Army.

The General desires me to mention to you that a certain Lieu[t] Singleton, who obtained your pass to come to Albany, has his leave to remain in town a few days to wait his further pleasure. Att same time Gen[l] Gates wishes you to be informed that tis his desire that the gentlemen who are prisoners in your State may remain close at the places to which they are assigned for their residence. He is fearfull that their moving from place to place upon every application will be attended with mischevous consequences. He has himself already experienced so many ungratefull returns to indulgences obtained from him that tis his opinion that every officer should be confined to his scituation untill some exchange can be had, unless some very urgent & pressing circumstances may be thot to intitule any one to some indulgence. The lenity & goodness which they have experienced is attributed to very different causes from

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those which influence to this kind treatment, & they rather seem to affect to dispise than thank us for the favors they receive.

Tyconderoga being abandoned, & the boats all withdrawn, M. Singleton cannot get a passage cross the Lakes if he should be indulged his request. A certain M^r^ Money, who is applying for your pass to go to N. York, is *exchanged*, & ought to go to Boston to embark with the troops there. If I may be suffered to give my opinion, I should think it best to make a refusal once for all, that you may not be exposed to so many applications as will certainly be the consequence of indulgence; & at same time may escape many *impositions*, which some of these gentry do not stick att with Americans. A certain Major Williams of the British train is gone to Hartford as a prisoner, & may be troubling you. Some parts of his behaviour before & since his being prisoner, which are come to knowlege, particularly forbid any indulgences to him. Saving *very* few British officers, they all experience much more kindness than policy or even humanity dictate.

M. Singleton complains his scituation is lonesome & retired; the more secluded from company & public intelligence the better for the country. Their pleasures are not so much to be consulted on this occasion as the public good; they have no *cause* for complaint; let them grumble it out; their scituation is happy; it is Paradise, compared with the treatment our poor fellows are obliged to submit to.

Inclosed I send you Col^o^ Dyer's last letter to me; what can he mean by the several Boards mak^g^ out distinct from Congress? You'll observe the manner of rejoycing adopted by Congress on occasion of the Northern success, worthy imitation indeed! After reading you will be pleased to send the letter to my M^rs^ Trumbull.

Our weather grows very cold; the river is this morn^g^

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almost filled with ice; several snows have already fell. I am told that between this & Connecticut River there is very good sleighing. I am, with most dutifull respects,

Your affectionate son,

J. TRUMBULL, JUN^{R}.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull.

ALBANY, 1st Decem^{r}, 1777.

HON^{D} SIR, — By opportunity of a light dragoon I send you the papers intended p last conveyance; hope you will receive them safe. Gen^{l} Gates begins to ask why the teams & horses do not come; have heard not a word since your letters p our express.

Is it not astonish^{g} that two months have now nearly passed at the southward since any thing has been done? What can be the cause of their lingering inacticity? they have before this had large reinforcements from this army. If nothing is done with the whole united Continental force, will there not be reason for complaint? I fear all is not right. I wish they had the same harmony & unanimity as has prevailed in this quarter.

M^{r} Peirce is not returned from Congress. I have no money. The General would be glad to be informed what town in your State you would choose for a place for cannon. I mentioned this in my last.

I am your most dutifull son.

J. T.

We are told the Adams's have followed M^{r} H. home. Is the Confederation compleated? A rope of sand cannot be strong.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

ALBANY, Decem^{r} 4th, 1777.

HON^{D} SIR, — I wrote you last Sabbath p light dragoon, inclosing sundry papers; hope they came safe, as also another letter 3 days before p Cap^{t} Scott, going to Hartford. I hear so little from Connecticut, that I am almost weary of writing, especially as I am very ignorant whether mine ever reach.

M. Peirce returned from Congress two days since, with various letters, the purport of which you will know when I can reach Lebanon. *His* news is rather very disagreable; inform^{s} that Gen^{l} Varnum had evacuated Red Bank Fort, without wait^{g} the attack of Lord Cornwallis, who was on his march for that purpose, & while Gen^{l} Green was on his way, with his division, to sustain the Fort. Reasons — none assigned. The large vessells in the river mostly destroyed; the gallies & small craft gott up the river to Burlington, &c. Since Peirce we have copy of letter from Gen^{l} Varnum, dated Mount Holly, who says Gen^{l} Green is near with 4,000, Lord Cornwallis with like number, being joined by General Willson with reinforcements from N. York; that something material was soon expected. He mentions also the abandonment of Red Bank, but no reasons. The officer who brings this also says that Tuesday the 25th a smart action happened near Head Q^{rs}, which issued in our favor, as had two smaller skirmishes since; that the enemy had not yet got their ship^{s} thro the chevaux de frieze, &c. These are the latest & most probable accounts we have. Other reports prevail, which I shall not mention. I fear things are bad eno' below, that the enemy will probably have safe & good winter quarters in the city, & leave our army to shurk for themselves where they can find covering.

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Cap^{t} Buckland goes for the horses & teams; the General thinks strange that nothing is heard from them since your letter p the express who went for them. The roads are bad, but the General is impatient. *He* may be called *below*, to assist with his good *fortune;* if this should be the case & the cannon not off you *may be* disappointed seeing them in your State. Sat verbum. The Gen^{l} has almost said I may leave him Monday next.

Your dutifull son,

Gov^{r} Trumbull. J. Trumbull, Jun^{a}.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HORATIO GATES.

Lebanon, 13th December, 1777.

Sir, — I have the honor of your two letters of the 15th November ult^{o} and 4th December instant. The season between carting and sleighing occasioned a delay of sending the teams and horses you requested. Have given the necessary orders to Captain Buckland to have the same, and think Farmington a suitable place for the artillery, and all the arms to be brought there. Brigadier Oliver Wolcott is directed to furnish the guard of militia.

Articles of Confederation, resolves relative to Continental currences, came to hand yesterday, and in the afternoon another express from Congress brought me a number of letters for gentlemen at Boston and the enclosed for you, to direct the embarkation of the troops surrendered by Lieu^{t} General Burgoyne to be made at the place stipulated in the Convention of Saratoga and no other.

Enclosed is a copy of that sent me by General Spencer, viz., M^{r} Pigot's to M^{r} Burgoyne.

M^{r} President Laurens mentions no other intelligence in his of the 3^{d}, except that General Howe had billeted his soldiers in couples on the housholders of Philadelphia, which had occasioned universal discontent and murmurs among the citizens.

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After writing thus far M^r^ Trumbull, your Paymaster, came in; from him you'll recieve the Articles of Confederation, resolves on the Continental currency, &c.

I congratulate you on your appointment to be at the head of the Board of War. I hope you will not decline the service. I sincerely wish one of your abilities to preside at that important Board. I understand it is the intention of Congress that you hold your command. They are sensible of the necessity of your aid to bring the several departments into a good train. Colonel Trumbull* is at Boston; know not his mind; wrote him that I am not acquainted with any objection to prevent his acceptance of the place to which he is appointed.

A letter of the 14^th^ from Norwich informs that B. General Parsons was last night at Oyster Pond point on Long Island, with about three hundred officers and men, in want of aid from N. London to bring them off. One of our transports, Col^o^ Webb, Col^o^ Ely, and sundry other officers on board, is taken by the enemy and carried to Newport.

Maj^r^ Ebenezer Huntington with eighty men escaped, and came into New London on the morning of the 14^th^ inst. at day break. Further particulars are not yet come to hand.

I am, with great esteem and regard, Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant.
J—— T——L.

P. S. The General Assembly of this State stands adjourned to the 8^th^ of January next.

Hon^ble^ Maj^r^ Gen^l^ GATES.

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* Joseph Trumbull, who had gone to Boston to buy clothing for the army. — EDS.

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JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull. P favour Doctor Medcalf.

HEAD QUARTERS, GULPH HILLS, 14 Decr, 1777.

SIR, — We are now on our way to winter quarters, where, I cannot well inform you. I am not in the best humour about the matter, nor are our councils so well united upon the subject; some will think it of the utmost importance that the enemy be closely watched and this State protected as far as possible from the excursions of the enemy. For my part I think confining the enemy to the city or the saving three or four counties, already strip'd, bears no proportion to the health of the troops; convenient covering, refreshments and quiet for the winter are absolutely necessary to fit the army for another campaign. Tis in vain to think of starving the enemy so far as to discourage their pursuit or prevent any of their operations, besides, they will plunder the country in spite of us. When we are on this side of Schuylkill they will rob the other and the Jersies; they have just been ravaging this part of the country and pushed off as we came. Some few fell into our hands by capture and desertion. They took from the inhabitants every thing eatable, beds, pewter, &c.; a weaver just cleverly set up in the world had his house & looms burn't.

We have invalids without number, owing to the constant fatigues of the army marching by night & day, thinly clothed, many without shoes or stockings, indifferently provided for, no vegetables. Lately the Connecticut troops begin to be better of it. Not long since the general officers represented to the General, to be laid before Congress, the inadequality of the pay & rations of the army, (their want of clothing had been long before a subject of complaint). I hear one of the members got up

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and said, let y^m^ do something to deserve more, first. The sentiment is very injurious to the army, and I hope & believe it is not a prevailing one among them; at least, I hope it will not dishearten us from exerting our best endeavours to keep the army together, and as contented as possible. Almost all the inferiour officers seem desirous of quitting the service, and it is as much as all our rhetorick will avail, to persuade them to wait a little longer for better times. Some, it is true, we are willing to part with; many we wish to retain will go; and for any thing I see, they will nearly all quit us.

Willmington and the adjacent towns are talked of for quarters; some are for hutting in the woods, the latter we are told would please Congress. We shall not find it an easy matter to please, if we make the pleasure of any the first object. Congress, I dare say, think us paltroons for not engaging M^r^ Howe the other day at White Marsh. The Committee of Congress who were there, I am told, were pleased to say as much. An attack would undoubtedly have been the ruin of this army. General Washington is under a strong necessity of hazarding an action for the sake of gratifying the opinions of those who ought not, and cannot indeed, judge him, that is, they cannot know the circumstances, or do not always understand the principles, upon which the fate of battles depend. The country might in some measure be satisfied for our inactivity, if it would do to let them into the knowledge of our numbers. I wish the General was as strong in the field as he is in the newspapers. A little knowledge of military history will inform any one that an army in one campaign scarsely ever fought two battles so general as those of Brandywine and Germantown. They were not decisive, it is true, and for good reason beside those which have been given to the publick. Gen^l^ Washington had not more than about 10,000 at Brandywine, (the militia I don't count) nor has he more than that number of

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effectives after the junction of the Northern reinforcements (I hardly dare speak the truth). We have very authentick accounts of Howe's exceeding him in numbers, in discipline we know he does. What can our worthy General do, unless circumstances should be greatly on his side in point of situation, a case the enemy have too much knowledge in the art of war, to let happen. When they came out of the city, they told what great things they intended to do, they took a fine piece of ground opposite to us, made a shew of attacking us in front, moved to our right, then to our left, and after viewing us a few days, and provoking us by their advanced parties to come out from our strong ground they at midnight returned to the city. Never I believe did an army want to fight more than ours on our own or equal ground, and the inferior officers & soldiers would cheerfully have gone to their ground had they have been ordered, confiding in the wisdom of their superiours. The general officers are tired enough of the war to have risqued a battle, had there been a distant prospect of success; but they had other things to bring into consideration, a rout of this army after the junction of the victorious troops from Gen[l] Gates would have filled the enemy with the most flattering hopes and proportionably depressed the country.

Our numbers are a shame to the country. I have the pleasure, however, to inform you the New England corps are the fullest, and Connecticut not behind the other three sister States. Ours too, in poor plight as they are, are better clothed than the others. Please to remember me affectionately to mother, son, &c., &c. I would have wrote my other friends if I had time. I give master* a

* Jabez Huntington, the only child of General Huntington's first wife (Faith Trumbull), was born in Lebanon, Conn., Sept. 17, 1767, spent his early years with his maternal grandfather, graduated at Yale College in 1784, and died in Norwich, Conn., Aug. 16, 1848. See Huntington Family Memoir, p. 242. — Eds.

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thousand joys. I have your favour p Brown. I seldom see him.

I am, with the greatest esteem and affection,

Your son,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Gulph Hills, 14 Decr, 1777. Brigr Genl Huntington, *de* State of the Army, recd 22nd instt p Docr Metcalfe.

JAMES DUANE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

MANOUR LIVINGSTON, 2d January, 1778.

SIR, — However fortunate, hitherto, in obtaining foreign supplies of arms and ammunition, bad would be the policy not to improve to the utmost extent every material which our own country is capable of affording. This State can furnish lead, sulphur, and flints, and Congress have warmly pressed our Legislature to establish these useful manufactures. The calamities which have pressed so hard upon us during the war, and particularly the last year, have hitherto put it out of our power. Invaded and distressed in every quarter, it has, as your Excellency well knows, been difficult for us, with all the assistance sent to our relief, even to defend ourselves; and in too many parts we see our country occupied by our enemies, or marked with ruin and desolation. It is not a time, however, to sink under misfortunes; in proportion to our past sufferings ought our spirit and vigour to rise, and our efforts to prepare against the future attempts of our implacable foes to be redoubled. It is with pleasure I can assure your Excellency that this laudable temper animates the people in office in this community.

* James Duane was born in New York, Feb. 6, 1733, became an eminent lawyer, was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1784, and afterward first mayor of New York, besides filling many other important offices in civil life. He married a daughter of Colonel Robert Livingston, and died in Duanesburg, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1797. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. ii. pp. 235, 236; Lanman's Biographical Annals, pp. 126, 127. — EDS.

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A Committee appointed to manage a Sulphur Refinery have raisd at Schoharie about four tons of ore which yields a proportion of one fourth pure sulphur. This, I am informed, is equal to the best ore in Germany. The supply promises to be inexhaustible, and the ore is so easily raised that a single hand has produc'd a ton a week. In two other places, one at, and the other near, Cherry Valley, sulphur has also been found, and about five tons raised. This is of a superior quality, being washed out of springs and mixed with earth and leaves: when cleansd about one half the mass is pure sulphur; but here the quantity is not so great. It has therefore been concluded to erect the works at Schoharie. I mention these particulars for your Excellency's information, knowing that you take a warm part in every thing which can promote the prosperity of the United States. But the immediate occasion of this address is to request your Excellency's assistance in procuring the necessary implements for the Refinery. Every thing else is preparing. We had the misfortune to learn on applying to the iron master at Ancram that his furnace cou'd not be set in motion till June, and that there wou'd, even then, be little prospect of getting the implements made for want of skilful moulders. I understand that your furnace at Salsbury will be in blast in a short time; and that your State furnishes many ingenious moulders; and being charged by Congress to have an eye to this manufactory which, as an object of general utility, they have greatly at heart, I take the liberty to entreat your Excellency to give orders for casting the implements at those works as soon as possible. The bearer will attend and give any direction which may be necessary beyond the pattern.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, Sir,

Your Excellency's most

obedient, humble servant.

JA^{s} DUANE.

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The implements to be cast are —

6 large stoves,
6 receivers for them,
12 refining pots; all of which must have doors or covers.

Be pleased to present my respectful complim^{t} to Col. Williams & Paymaster General Trumbull, if at home.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 2nd January, 1778. Hon^{o} James Duane, Esq., *de* Sulphur Potts, rec^{d} 14th ins^{t}.

ISRAEL PUTNAM TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, SAWPITTS, 6th Jan^{y}, 1778.

SIR, — I have been fav^{d} with your Excellency's letter of the 20th ult^{o}. The militia which you mention to have been orderd in have verry few arrived; and I am confident, they never will be made to turn out as orderd, except on some particular emergency, unless some new and spirited regulations are made and put in force.

The treatment which the enemy have given to the unfortunate officers and soldiers of our army who have fallen into their hands, makes some step for retaliation absolutely necessary. I would therefore beg leave to suggest, whether it would not be proper and advisable to build a number of barracks, (sufficient to contain the prisoners sent to your State) near to *Simsbury Mines*, with picquets, &c., round them for a yard, at which place they should all be kept, with proper guards, to prevent them making their escape. And if any of their conduct be such as does not entitle them to this lenity, I would immediately confine them close in the *Mines*. This severity I would particularly exercise towards those vilains who have fled from their country's cause and join^{d} the enemy. Such a step as this, I think, would procure much better

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treatment to our prisoners, and prevent the insults which the inhabitants daily receive from theirs, who have the liberty to walk the country at large.

Another thing, I think worthy the consideration of the Gen[l] Assembly. You must be sensible that the reg[ts] rais[d] in the State of Connecticut (which were never full by more than two thousand) are very considerably diminish[d], by the dismission of the eight months men, and what a campaign, in other respects, will necessarily reduce it. I therefore think it of the utmost importance that some step be taken, without delay, to replace those troops & fill the army against the spring. I shall send (from the army under my command) officers from every company to different quarters on this business, and most sincerely wish the public bodies would give them every assistance in their power.

I fear if some further provision is not made for the officers' familys, that the service will be greatly injur[d] by their quitting it. I think I can assert that more than one half of the best officers will (and not without reason) resign their stations in the army, if something is not done for the assistance of their familys.

Our partys of late have been verry successfull; on New Year's night, Col. Butler bro't off 4 non comm[d] officers and a light horse man from the mannor of Fordham. The morning after, L[t] Althouse (of Emerick's Chassures) with 25 men was discoverd, attempting to surprize a small guard at Wright's Mills. On the earliest intelligence Cap[t] Buchanan, with 17 of the water guard, march[d] in pursuit of, and overtook them near Youngs's, attack[d] with spirit, kill[d] and took every man except one. That is, with the assistance of some of the militia who came in verry opportunely from Tarry Town; three of the enemy were kill[d] on the spot, and four wounded. Cap[t] Buchanan early in the skirmish receiv[d] a ball thro the sholder, not mortal, it is hop[d]. We had but one man

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more wounded. The enemy had sent off a party of 30 under Cap^{t} Barnes to cover the retreat of Althouse and his detachment. In the mean time we had the alarm at head quarters, & I detach^{d} partys on every road to intercept any of the enemy that might be out. Col. Butler, Major Grey & Cap^{t} Livingsworth, with an advanc^{d} party of 28 men on the Tucky Hoe Road, fell in with Cap^{t} Barnes and his Chasseurs. Here the galantry of our troops appeard; for the numbers were just equal. Our people attack^{d} them with such impetuosity that they kill^{d} one on the spot, wounded a second, and captured the remainder of the party without the least accident on our part.

I was happy to find that our troops behaved so much to their credit on the occation, and turn^{d} out with the greatest alacrity and spirit on the first intimation of the enemy's being advanc^{d} from their works. For other particulars I must refer you to Major Humphrys, who will be able to inform you.

I am, d^{r} Sir, you mo^{s} obed^{t} serv^{t}.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Saw Pitts, 6th Jan^{y}, 1778. Maj^{r} General Putnam, *de* the militia ordered neglect going. Retalliation.

JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull. P favour Colonel Swift.

CAMP, VALLEY FORGE, January 9, 1778.

SIR, — One of our Deputy Comisaries of Prisoners was in Philadelphia a few days ago. M^{r} Balfour, an Aide de Camp, asked him if *the controversy* could not be settled. Several officers expressed themselves in a stile that imported their despair of subjugating the country. The

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necessity of bringing a formidable force into the field early in the spring glares in every point of view, and I am sure has appeared to you and many others. Comparing present things with the past there is but little to do; the outlines of the army are drawn, we have a considerable body of veteran troops with many experienced officers. If we may believe what the conduct of Gen[l] Howe spoke at White Marsh, *he* does not despise our strength. We want our corps filled; the artillery and light horse should not be neglected; the light horse are the most usefull part of the army.

I hope the situation of our military affairs will not be seen through any false mirrour. They (N. England) must not depend too much upon their sister States; nor confine themselves to the lines of proportion and equality. One grand effort will prevent, perhaps, several campaigns. How they will be rewarded for their great exertions I pretend not to say, but that they will be, I fully believe, nay, so greatly partial is a kind Providence to them, especially to Connecticut, I think they owe every thing for the superior and distinguished blessings they enjoy. I wish you all divine assistance and support under your unceasing care and labours for the publick liberty & happiness, & remain with unfeigned affection & esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

JED. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 9[th] Jan[y], 1778. B. Gen[l] Huntington, *de* army, enemy despair conquering, rec[d] p Col[o] Swift, 21[st] inst.

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JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

CAMP, VALLEY FORGE, 13th January, 1778.

DEAR SIR,—I address you at this time to return my hearty thanks, in behalf of the soldiers, for the late supplies of clothing which they have received from the State, in particular for the generous donation from the Parish of Crank in Lebanon and from the town of Preston. I am told that the same benevolent spirit pervades almost every family, and that like collections are making in all the towns and parishes. Surely it is a token that God is preparing the hearts of the people for some signal blessings.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the army are in cumfortable quarters of their own making; that those from Connecticut are well clothed, and mostly in the manufactures of their own country. Blankets are the only article wanted at present. They enjoy a good degree of health; every hardship and distress they have encountered and endured without murmurs or complaint.

It is hard to deny the soldiers the priviledge of seeing their families as they expected at this season. The service seems to forbid the indulgence, and they acquiesce. I trust their needy families will not be forgot by the virtuous and good people at home. The clothing prepared for the troops by the State, towns, or individuals (except blankets) had best lye in reserve till the campaign opens, which I hope will be early and with vigour. The officers are destitute of clothing and should be assisted some way or other.

I remain, with the greatest respect & affection,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} servant.

JED. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

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SAMUEL H. PARSONS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Hartford.

LYME, Jan^{y} 26th, 1778.

HON^{D} SIR, — The attention your Excellency pays to the public affairs of government in the session of Assembly left me no opportunity to mention some things respecting the army, & also my own private concerns, when I was at Hartford, which I intended to have spoken to you about.

In clothing the troops the durableness of their cloths ought to be attended to, as well as their decency, especially in the present circumstances of the country. I have observ^{d} without lining the coat soon gives way & is lost before tis half worn; lining would add much to the strength of the garment, & would more than pay the expence of the lining. Flannel or almost any thing either woolen or linnen will answer the purpose. In the summer their frocks will be suff^{t} without using the coat; I would therefore request your Excellency to order the coats to be lin^{d}.

A small quantity of leather & shoe thread to mend their shoes will be a great saving, if it can be provided for each reg^{t}; workmen can be had from the soldiery.

I intended to have spoken more fully to your Excellency concerning the monies seis^{d} by me & deliverd to the care of the Governor & Council by M^{r} Fanning. As I suppose myself interested in the disposition of those monies, I make no doubt your Excellency will let me have notice before any decision be made on the matter. I suppose my claim to be such as will intitle me to part, if not the whole, of the monies by any judges, & therefore whenever the question is decided I shall undoubtedly be noticed, unless your Excellency & the Council should think my right to the whole so clear as not to

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admit a doubt, & so decree it to me as a matter of course.

I am, with esteem,
Y^r Excell^y's obed^t, humble serv^t.
SAM^L H. PARSONS.

Gov^r. TRUMBULL.

P. S. I would thank y^r Excellency for an order to retain a sufficiency of y^e fine blue broadcloth for a coat for my use.

Y^rs ut supra. S. H. P.

Indorsed: Lyme, 26^th Jan^y, 1778. B. Gen^l Parsons, *de* cloathing. The money from Fanning, rec^d 3^d Feb^y, 1778.

HORATIO GATES TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

(Circular.)

WAR OFFICE, Feb^y 10^th, 1778.

SIR, — Enclosed you have a copy of a resolve of Congress directing the Board to enquire into the causes of the deficiences in the department of the purchasing commissaries, the present state of which is really alarming. In order to enable us to comply with the directions of Congress it is necessary to get all the evidence the subject will admit of, as well for present satisfaction as future government. I am therefore to sollicit your immediate enquiry into the situation of the purchasing department in your State, and that you will be pleased to give such information, both as to men and measures as you shall think the necessity of the case demands; and if any abuses have arisen from the men employed, either principally or subordinately, measures may be taken for their removal; and if any want of regulation, or public or private obstructions have been the occasion of the lan-

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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guor in the department, as far as has fallen under your notice, the proper representations may be made to Congress, who are ever ready to remedy when properly informed of the evil. The Board would also be happy to recieve your opinion as to what supplies may at this time, or in the course of the next campaign, be drawn from your State, specifying the species and probable quantities of the respective articles.

The Board have taken the liberty to address this letter to you as they have done to the governments of the other States, not with a view to any particular person or measure, nor with a desire to draw more provisions or supplies from any State that [than?] it is prudent for them to part with, but as they have been placed in a great Department, and do not yet know where the enemy's operations the next campaign may point, it is necessary for the Board to know what abuses prevail, what regulations should be made in the provision business, and what resources each State can furnish in case of any emergency, or movement of the enemy, keeping always in view the supply of the army, whether it preserves its present position, or shall move as the theatre of war may change.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, hble. servant.

HORATIO GATES, *President.*

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esq, Governor of the State of Connecticut.

I beg leave to acquaint you that the late Board of War by their Circular Letters of the 16th June & the 25th Novemr last requested your Excellency would be pleased to transmit a list of all officers appointed by your State in the Continental Battalions, which, as they have not yet recieved, they request may be sent, as the Board are about recording all officers appointed by the respective States.

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WILLIAM WHITING* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

SALISBURY, 19th February, 1778.

SIR, — A fatal accident has baffled our best endeavours and last efforts for casting mortars at this season of the year. Yesterday it was discovered that the water had forced its way through the dam at the end opposite the wheel flume, which it is supposed was occasioned by the frost heaving the ground. I set a number of hands immediately to repair it, and before night it appeared to be well secured; but between midnight and day the water got such a course through that a large space of earth fell in, so that it was not possible for us to prevent the pond's being drained too much to afford water sufficient to keep the furnace wheel going. I have now men at work to repair the breach if possible, so as to supply the wheel with water until the hearth can be clear'd of iron by the blast, which will save much labour in *shoveling off;* but I am fearful that no repairs made in the winter will afford a good security for the water, so as to make it appear prudent for us to blow again, if it shou'd be practicable for us to get a supply of stock.

Mr Henshaw set off for Hartford yesterday morning, to borrow of Capt Forbes (who is now there) a quantity of coal which he has at Canaan, and as I expect Mr Henshaw will give your Excellency an account of the prospects we have of getting wood and pasturing for teams

* At the session of the General Assembly of Connecticut in December, 1776, Colonel Joshua Porter and Messrs. Benjamin Henshaw and William Whiting, or any two of them, were appointed "with full power and authority effectually to prosecute the casting of cannon, &c., at said foundery [at Salisbury] for the use of this State, and also to purchase such quantities of rum, salt, &c., as they shall judge profitable to enable them in the best manner to execute said purpose, the profits of the sale thereof to be appropriated to the use of this State." (See Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776-Feb., 1778, p. 131.) In subsequent resolves they are designated as "overseers." — EDS.

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next blast, I shall therefore omit writing the particulars, as the gentleman who takes this is in great haste to go on his journey.

I am, most respectfully,

Your Excellency's obedient, humble servant.

WILLIAM WHITING.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Hartford. Maj. Hyde.

LEBANON, 24th Febry, 1778.

HONd SIR, — Have heard nothing from you since your leavg Lebanon; hope you suffer no inconvenience from attendg the Assembly.

Colo Jos. Trumbull continues mendg in a remarkable manner, suffered an accident last week, which will prove no otherwise bad, I hope, than as it will be very troublesome, by rubbing his lame leg & arm with a tincture of cantharides, rather too strong, has excited blisters on both from one end to the other.

My mother has been exceeding lame, occasioned I suppose by cold, could scarcely move yesterday; is somewhat better.

Have nothing new, but various *reports*. If you have any thing to comunicate, & time will permit, should be very much obliged for a line. Any opportunity to Congress or Albany? With dutifull respect, I am

Your affectionate son.

JONA TRUMBULL, JUR.

P. S. The Warren, Continental frigate, has passed Lord Howe's fleet, & escaped into safe port.

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JOSEPH WEBB* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, at Hartford. P the Sheriff.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — I have been confind these several days or I shou'd have waited on your Excellency to know when you shou'd choose to go home, as I look upon myself under particular obligation to see you well at Lebanon. Our particular friend Jere Wadsworth told me to make my self quite easy about the matter, for he had business, plenty of horses & wou'd choose to see you home.

My horses & chariots, or sleigh, are at your service without the least ceremony, or inconvenience to me in the world, and I sincerely wish you to do as it may best suit yourself. I am anxious about the affair of Judd & Flyn. I promised you wou'd send your orders to Newport, which I hope you have done; if not it ought not to be ommitted any longer.† I feel a little chagrind about the two young lads of M^rs^ Winthrop.‡ I have ask't a great number of the first people who say they cannot see it inconsistant, but a p^s^ of civility that may be justly due each side & scarcely ever lost. Col. Sherriff was vastly

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* Joseph Webb, of Wethersfield, was, when this letter was written, probably about twenty-nine years old, and is described as "an enterprising merchant and trader to the West Indies." He married Abigail, a sister of Colonel John Chester, and was a brother of the better known General Samuel B. Webb, of the army of the Revolution. His mother married for her second husband Silas Deane, and died in 1767. See Memorial History of Hartford County, vol. ii. p. 478. — EDS.

† The reference is, perhaps, to an order passed by the Council of Safety Oct. 13, 1777, — "*Voted*, that Mr. David Trumbull settle the accounts and expence of bringing into this State Capt. Wm. Judd of [the] *Antelope*, Capt. Flin of the *Weymouth*, with the rest of the prisoners taken in the *Weymouth* by Capt. Seth Hardin in the ship *Oliver Cromwell*, and pay said expence; and that said Trumbull shall be reimburs'd the sum he shall so pay out of the publick treasury of this State." See Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776–Feb., 1778, p. 450. — EDS.

‡ At a meeting of the Council of Safety, March 20, 1778, the Governor gave a permit, "with approbation of those present, to Mrs. Winthrop on her petition for her two sons, Benjamin and Robert, to go into New York to the care of their uncle Major Sheriff, who offers to take and send them to London for their education, under such care or convoy as the selectmen of N. London shall approve, &c." See Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776 - Feb., 1778, p. 572. — EDS.

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civil in obtaining my permitt for Mrs Deane's son to go first into York, then in obtaining a pass for him to England, France, &c. Long after all this was compleated, he was chatting with me about his sister, was anxious about her maintaining & taking care of so large a family & started the *scheem* of educating at his own expence the two lads; ask't me to obtain your leave, which civility he wou'd much more return if ever in his power. I wish, Sir, you may think as I do about the affair, & aid the good lady who will readily acknowledge the obligation.

I am your Excellency most obt, h. sert.

JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 3d March, 1778.

Indorsed: 3d March, 1778. Mr Jos. Webb, *de* Judd & Flinn, Mrs Winthrop's sons.

GEORGE CLINTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

POUGHKEEPSIE, 6th March, 1778.

SIR, — I enclose you copies of certain Resolves of Congress, relative to the defence of Hudson's River; by several letters from them on that subject they appear to consider it as an object of the last importance. Could I believe that your Excellency would not see it in the same light, I should endeavour to point out the advantages that the enemy might draw from the possession of this State, which would follow the possession of the river, and the ruinous effects with which it would be attended to America in general, but more particularly to your State. I must therefore request your Excellency to raise in your State what you shall conceive your quota of three thousand men, which are absolutely necessary for the security of the passes of the river in case of an early attempt of the enemy to gain the possession of them. We for our part will raise 700 men, which I am satisfied

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you will think our full proportion of that number, considering our exhausted & mutilated state. And much beyond the proportion that Congress have assigned us upon other occasions.

I do not, Sir, pretend to settle your quota agreable to the Resolves enclosed, because I am satisfied that you will readily make every exertion in your power on this important occasion relying upon which I refer it to your discretion to raise as many men for eight months, to be counted from the time of their arrival at the post on the river, as you possibly can; and as I have not called for any particular number & only intimated that at least 3,000, exclusive of what Continental troops we may collect, will be necessary, I flatter myself that the number you may think it prudent to raise will be at the post by the middle of April at farthest.

I would beg leave to suggest to your Excellency the propriety of having a part of your westermost militia equiped & ready to march at the first notice under the command of your best officers. No measures necessary for the security of these important posts will, I hope, be neglected by either of the States interested in their preservation. Your Excellency will be pleased to advise the State of Massachusets of the number of men your State proposes to raise, that they may govern themselves accordingly, & I will be much oblidged to you for the like information by the earliest opportunity. If among the number to be raised in your State there might be a company or two of (armed) artificers, especially carpenters, they would be of singular use. I have the honor, to be with the highest esteem,

Your most obed^{t} serv^{t}.

GEO. CLINTON.

His Excellency JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esq^{r}.

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WILLIAM TRYON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

Triplicate. NEW YORK, 17th April, 1778.

SIR, — Having been honored with the King's commands to circulate the enclosures to the people at large, I take the liberty to offer them to you for your candid consideration, and to recommend that through your means the inhabitants within your Province may be acquainted with the same, as also the other Provinces to the eastward.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W^m TRYON.

Governor TRUMBULL.

Draught of a Bill for declaring the Intentions of the Parliament of Great-Britain, concerning the Exercise of the Right of imposing Taxes within his Majesty's Colonies, Provinces, and Plantations in North America.

Whereas the exercise of the right of taxation by the Parliament of Great-Britain for the purpose of raising a revenue in his Majesty's Colonies, Provinces and Plantations in North America has been found by experience to occasion great uneasinesses and disorders, and has by sundry misrepresentations been made the means of misleading many of his Majesty's faithful subjects, who yet

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* William Tryon was born in England in 1725, and at an early age entered the army as a captain. In 1764 he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of North Carolina, and in the following year he succeeded to the office of Governor. In 1771 he was made Governor of New York. Not long after the commencement of hostilities he took command of a body of American Loyalists; and early in 1778 he resigned the Governorship for a commission in the British regular army. In the following year he made his predatory expedition into Connecticut. In 1780 he went to England, and two years later was raised to the rank of Lieutenant-General. He died in London, Dec. 27, 1788. See Dictionary of National Biography, vol. lvii. pp. 276, 277. — EDS.

† Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. This letter with its enclosures and Governor Trumbull's answer (*post*, p. 228) were printed in the Boston Gazette of May 4, 1778, as having come to hand on Monday last, April 27. In their passage through Parliament the bills based on these draughts were considerably modified. Governor Trumbull's copies of the two bills (18 George III. caps. xii., xiii.) in the form in which they were enacted are in the Library of the Historical Society. — EDS.

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acknowledge the justice of contributing to the common defence of the Empire, provided such contributions should be raised under the authority of the General Court or General Assembly of each respective Colony, Province, or Plantation; and whereas in order as well to remove the said uneasinesses and to quiet the minds of his Majesty's subjects who may be disposed to return to their allegiance, and to restore the peace and welfare of all his Majesty's dominions, it is expedient to declare that the King and Parliament of Great-Britain will not impose any duty, tax or assessment for the purpose of raising a revenue within any of the said Colonies, Provinces, or Plantations.

May it please your Majesty that it may be declared and enacted, &c., That from and after the passing of this act the Parliament of Great-Britain will not impose any duty, tax, or assessment whatsoever, payable within any of his Majesty's Colonies, Provinces, and Plantations in North America, except only such duties as it may be expedient to impose for the regulation of commerce; the net produce of such duties to be always paid and applied to and for the use of the Colony, Province, or Plantation in which the same shall be respectively levied in such manner as other duties collected by the authority of the respective General Courts or General Assemblies of such Colonies, Provinces, or Plantations are ordinarily paid and applied.

Draft of a Bill to enable his Majesty to appoint Commissioners with sufficient Powers to treat, consult, and agree upon the means of quieting the Disorders now subsisting in certain of the Colonies, Plantations, and Provinces of North America.

For the quieting and extinguishing of divers jealousies and misapprehensions of dangers to their liberties and legal rights which have misled many of his Majesty's subjects in the Colonies, Provinces, and Plantations of

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New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, The three Lower Counties of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and for a fuller manifestation of the just and gracious purposes of his Majesty and his Parliament, to maintain and secure all his subjects in the clear and perfect enjoyment of such liberties and rights, Be it enacted, &c., That [*blank*] persons to be appointed by his Majesty, under the Great Seal of Great-Britain, or any of them shall, by force of this Act, have full power, commission, and authority to treat, consult and agree with such body or bodies political and corporate, or with such Assembly or Assemblies of men, or with such person or persons, as in their wisdom and discretion, they shall think meet of, and concerning any grievances existing, or supposed to exist, in the government of any of the said Colonies, Provinces, or Plantations respectively, or in the laws and statutes of the Realm respecting the same, and of or concerning any aid or contribution to be furnished by all or any of the Colonies, Provinces, or Plantations respectively for the common defence of this Realm and the dominions thereunto belonging; and of and concerning such other regulations, provisions, matters, and things as upon mature deliberation of the said Commissioners or any [*blank*] of them, shall be thought necessary or convenient for the honor of his Majesty and the common good of all his subjects.

Provided also, and be it further enacted and declared, That no regulation, provision, matter, or thing so proposed, treated, consulted, or agreed, shall have any other force or effect, or be carried further into execution than is hereinafter mentioned and provided, untill the same shall have been approved by Parliament.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in order to facilitate the good purposes

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of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners or any [*blank*] of them from time to time, as they shall judge it convenient, to order and proclaim a cessation of hostilities on the part of his Majesty's troops in any of the said Colonies, or Plantations, or any part thereof, for any time and under any conditions or restrictions which they shall think convenient, and such order and proclamation to revoke and annul, in the same manner and form, according to their discretion.

And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners or any [*blank*] of them by proclamation under their respective hands and seals from time to time to suspend the operation and effect of a certain Act of Parliament, made and passed in the sixteenth year of the reign of his present Majesty for prohibiting all trade and intercourse with certain Colonies and Plantations therein named, and for the other purposes therein also mentioned, or any of the provisions or restrictions therein contained, for such convenient time as the said Commissioners shall think proper, specifying in such proclamation at what times and places respectively, and with what exceptions and restrictions, the said suspension shall take effect, and the said suspension and proclamation in the same manner and form to annul and revoke according to their discretion.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners or any [*blank*] of them may and they are hereby authorized and empowered to suspend in such places, and for such times as they shall think fit, during the continuance of this Act, the operation and effect of all or any of the Act or Acts of Parliament which have passed since the 10th day of February, 1763, and which relate to any of his Majesty's Colonies, Provinces, or Plantations in North America, so far as the same do relate to them, or the operation and effect of any clause, or any provisions or matters therein contained, so

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far as such clause, provisions, or matters relate to any of the said Colonies, Provinces, or Plantations.*

And that no lett or hindrance may happen from the vacancy of the office of Governor and Commander in Chief in any of the said Colonies, Provinces, or Plantations respectively, or from the absence of such officer from his government; Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners or any [*blank*] of them shall have full power and authority in any of the said Colonies, Provinces, or Plantations respectively, wherein his Majesty hath usually heretofore nominated and appointed a Governor, to nominate and appoint by any instrument under their hands and seals a proper person to be the Governor and Commander in Chief in and for any such Colony, Province, or Plantation, to have, hold, and exercise, during his Majesty's pleasure, the said office of Governor and Commander in Chief in and for such Colony or Plantation respectively, with all such powers and authorities as any Governor of such Province heretofore appointed by his Majesty might or could have exercised, in as full and ample manner and form as if such Governor and Commander in Chief had been nominated and appointed by his Majesty's Letters Patent or Commission, and for that purpose, if need be, to revoke, annul, and make void any Commission or Letters Patent heretofore granted for appointing any such Governor and Commander in Chief.

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall continue in force untill the first day of June which will be in the year 1779.

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* In copying this draught of a bill into the Letter Book, Governor Trumbull's clerk seems to have carelessly omitted an important paragraph, which in the Boston Gazette here follows in these words: "And it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners or any [*blank*] of them, and they are hereby authorized and impowered to grant a pardon or pardons to any number or description of persons within the said Colonies, Provinces, or Plantations." This authorization to the Commissioners to grant a pardon or pardons, etc., was retained in the Act as passed. — Eds.

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I do hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies of enclosures sent me in a dispatch by the Right Hon. Lord George Germain, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

His Majesty having seen with great concern the calamitous consequences of the dispute with the Colonies, and willing to hope that even those who have been most forward in bringing on these misfortunes are now convinced of the fatal tendency of their conduct, and would gladly return to their allegiance, if they were not witheld by apprehensions that advantage would be taken of their submission to pursue measures dictated by resentment of their past behaviour, and to impose upon the Colonies intolerable burthens and restraints. To remove all grounds of such apprehensions, and to prepare the way to the return of peace, the above Bills were read in the House of Commons on the 19th day of February last, in pursuance of an unanimous resolve of that House of the 17th of the same month, and I have his Majesty's command to cause them to be printed and dispersed, that the people at large may be acquainted with their contents, and of the favorable disposition of Great Britain towards the American Colonies.

Given under my hand at New York, this 15th day of April, 1778.

WILLIAM TRYON.

JOHN SULLIVAN* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumble, Lebanon, Connecticut. J. Sullivan.

PROVIDENCE, 22d April, 1778.

DEAR SIR, — I beg leave to inform your Excellency that this Department is almost destitute of troops. One

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* John Sullivan was born in Berwick, Me., Feb. 17, 1740, and died in Durham, N. H., Jan. 23, 1795. In June, 1775, he was appointed by Congress one of the eight Brigadier-Generals in the American army. He served nearly to the end of the war, when he resigned

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company only has arrived from Massachusetts & not a man from Connecticut or New Hamp^r. I intreat your Exce^y to order on the troops from your State as soon as possible, as the enemy are well acquainted with our situation & may avail themselves of it whenever they think proper: I congratulate your Excellency upon the agreable intelligence from France, & have the honor to be, with much respect,

Your Exc^ys most obed^t serv^t

JN^o SULLIVAN.

His Exc^y Governor TRUMBLE.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO WILLIAM TRYON.

LEBANON, 23^d April, 1778.

SIR, — Your letter of the 17^th instant from New York is recieved with its enclosures, and the several similar packets of various addresses with which it was accompanied.

Propositions of peace are usually made from the supreme authority of one contending power to the similar authority of the other; and the present is the first instance within my recollections where a vague, half blank, and very indefinite draft of a bill *once* only read before *one* of *three bodies* of the legislature of a nation has ever been addressed to the people at large of the opposite power, as an overture of reconciliation. There was a day when even this step from our then acknowledged parent state might have been accepted with joy and gratitude. But that day, Sir, is passed irrevocably. The repeated insolent rejection of our sincere and sufficiently humble petitions, the unpro-

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on account of impaired health. After leaving the army he served in Congress for a brief period, and filled various important offices in his native State. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. v. pp. 740, 741; 2 Sparks's American Biography, vol. iii.; Amory's Military Life and Public Services of Major-General John Sullivan. — EDS.

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voked commencement of hostilities, the barbarous inhumanity which has marked the prosecution of the war on your part in its several stages, the insolence which displays itself on every petty advantage, the cruelty which has been exhausted on those unhappy men whom the fortune of war has thrown into your hands, — all these are insuperable and eternal bars to the very idea of concluding a peace with Great Britain on any other conditions than the most absolute and perfect independency.

To the Congress of the United States of America, therefore, all proposals of this kind are to be addressed. And you must give me leave, Sir, to say that the present mode bears too much the marks of an insidious design to disunite the people, and to lull us into a state of quietude and negligence of the necessary preparations for the approaching campaign.

If this be the real design it is fruitless. If peace be really the object let your proposals be addressed properly to the proper power, and your negotiations honorably conducted, we shall then have some prospect of (what is the most ardent wish of every honest American) a lasting and honorable peace. The British nation may then, perhaps, find us as affectionate and valuable friends as we now are determined and fatal enemies, and derive from that friendship more solid and real advantage than the most sanguine can expect from conquest.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

JONTH TRUMBULL.

P. S. I have taken the liberty of enclosing to your care a letter for M^{rs} Bruce, lady to Doct^{r} Bruce, from her son, who is at school in this town.

Gov^{r} TRYON.

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GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On publick service. His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq. Lebanon.

FAIRFIELD, April 24th, 1778.

SIR, — Your Excellency's two last favours of the 10th instant came to hand both together on the 12th. I immediately sent for Major Abell, who is the recruiting officer appointed in this brigade by the Hon^{a} Gen^{a} Assembly, and shewed him your orders, and gave him a return of the draughted men in Col^{o} Whiteing's, Col^{o} Moseley's, & Col^{o} Beardsley's regiments; (from Col^{o} Mead's I have never yet got any return, and find that the begining of this week he had not had any detachment made for the purpose, tho I have since the 10th of March wrote him 3 or 4 pressing letters on the subject). And I gave Major Abell directions to collect the draughts that had been made & march them to N. Haven with all possible dispatch; but he meets with great difficulty in the doing of it, and yesterday told me that he thought he could not effect it without a military force to assist.

On the 1st of May the time of service of the militia on duty in these parts expires. Col^{o} Mead's officers have begun to inlist men for the defence of the State, but meet with but little success as yet; so that there will be no men from that regiment to take the posts this way on the first of May which the militia now occupy. Some there are that are too important to be relinquished. The battery at Battery Point in this town, consisting of 2 twelve pound, 1 nine, and 2 six pound cannon, with shott & other proper stores, and a store house for the military stores & barracks for 28 men, will then be left unguarded. The consequence it is not difficult to foresee. The preservation of these important articles is a matter to[o] important to be neglected, and the safety of this town absolutely requires this battery to be taken care of, about which I have lately fully wrote your

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Excellency. But as I have received no direction in this matter, and as no provision is yet made for it, I have this day by the advice of Col° Davenport, Major Adams & M^r^ Burr, all now here, given orders to Leiu^t^ Isaac Burr who commands at the battery, to inlist 1 Serj^t^, 2 Corporals, & 25 Privates to serve as a garrison there untill your Excellency & your Councill of Safety or the General Assembly shall give further orders about the matter, which I entreat your Excellency to do as soon as may be. This number of officers and men I conceive to be absolutely necessary for that post.

It was mentioned whether L^t^ Odell with his company of Matrosses might not be moved to the battery; but it was thought that it would not do for him to go there, because his company were raised to take care of the field peices in this town, and after the 1^st^ of May they will be the only guard we shall have for our military stores here, consisting of cannon, cannon shott, cannon & musquet cartriges, tents & camp utensils, of too great value & importance to be left unguarded.

I hope your Excellency & Councill will not think the measure wrong, but beg to be informed as soon as possible.

I am, your Excellency's
Most obedient and most hum° serv^t^.

His Excell^y^ Gov^r^ TRUMBULL. G. SELLECK SILLIMAN.

ROGER SHERMAN, SAMUEL HUNTINGTON,* AND OLIVER WOLCOTT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

YORK TOWN, May 18^th^, 1778.

SIR, — The inclos^d^ Resolution of Congress is the result of the most painfull & disagreable question that hath ever been agitated in Congress.

* Samuel Huntington, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was born in Windham, Conn., July 3, 1731, and died in Norwich, Jan. 5, 1796. From 1776 to 1783 he was a

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The question was stur[d] before Co[l] Dyer left Congress, & he will be able to give some account of the matter & sentiments of many of the States thereon.

A most disagreable & serious debate hath continued about seven weeks, a bill being bro[t] in for an half pay establishment for life for the officers, & to their widows during their widowhood. Several collateral questions were determined in the progress of the debate, which shewed that eight of the States were in favour of the establishment for life, &c., as above; Rhode Island, Connecticutt, New Jersey, & South Carolina strenuously in the negative, New Hampshire being absent.

General Washington wrote repeatedly upon the subject, expressing his great concern, & the necessity of the measure. In one of his letters he says, that alltho' he never would take any benefit of such an establishment himself, yet he did most religiously believe the salvation of the army depended upon it; many of the States deemed the measure not only absolutely necessary but salutary, just, & reasonable.

The justice as well as necessity of doing some thing for the army was obvious; to increase their wages would so directly tend to depreciate the currency it appear[d] dangerous as well as futile.

Finally after long debate & delay, in hope some favourable event might turn up, even til delay became dangerous, the bill was carried for an establishment for life, but the four States who were in the negative, as before mentioned, persevering & urging the dangerous tendency of such a measure as being totally inconsistent with free

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delegate to Congress, and from Sept., 1779, to July, 1781, President of that body. From 1774 to 1784 he was a Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and Governor of the State from 1786 to 1796. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. p. 326; Huntington Family Memoir, pp. 111–117. For notices of Roger Sherman and Oliver Wolcott, see *ante*, pp. 25 *n.*, 75 *n.* — Eds.

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States, repugnant to principals upon which this great controversy was begun & by which it must & ought to be defended, with many other arguments & observations too tedious to be enumerated, the majority of the delegates of Massachusetts came over to the negative side of the question.

There appearing a serious concern in Congress to adopt some mode in this important matter, in which they might unite so as to answer the necessities of the army, & preserve harmony & unanimity in all the States, a reconsideration of the Bill was proposed & an amendment moved & finally adopted, which is the inclos^{d} resolution, providing both for officers & soldiers such a reward as should be deemed equal in value to their wages at the original stipulation.

It is allmost impossible to give a clear & full representation of the difficulties attending this debate, on both sides the question, to any gentleman who was not present; however many weighty reasons not here mentioned will readily occur to your Excellency.

If the inclos^{d} Resolve is not the best measure the nature & circumstances of the case would admit, it is certainly the best that could be obtain^{d}.

Your Excellencies late correspondence with General Tryon meets with universal approbation.

We have just receiv^{d} intelligence that North Carolina have acceeded to the Articles of Confederation; if the delegates from New Hampshire should arrive with powers to ratify, which we hope will soon be the case, there is a prospect the Confederation may soon be compleated.

Duplicates of the Treaties of Alliance & Commerce, with France, arrived here yesterday, & by the same packet we have advice that on the 20th of March Doc^{r} Franklin was formally receiv^{d} as Embassador from these States at the Court of Versailles, & that his Most

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Christian Majesty had named an Embassador to reside here.

We are, with much esteem,

Your Excellencies obedient, humble servants,

ROGER SHERMAN.
SAM^LL HUNTINGTON.
OLIVER WOLCOTT.

Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 18^th May, 1778. Connecticut Delegates, *de* half pay. N. Carolina acceed to Confideration; rec^d p Brown, 26^th ins^t mane.

RICHARD HENRY LEE AND JAMES LOVELL* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Your Excellency having been requested by the Marine Committee to have a packet boat in readiness to carry important dispatches to France, we have now sent such to your care, conditionally, which we desire you to give in charge to a trusty Captain, to deliver with his own hands to our Commissioners at Paris. Your wisdom will dictate pointed orders for conveying the packets without injury, w^th secresy & with dispatch; but, for sinking them in case the vessel should be unfortunately taken.

We are respectfully,

Your Excellency's humble servants.

RICHARD HENRY LEE.
JAMES LOVELL.

YORK TOWN, May 19^th, 1778.

Governour TRUMBULL.

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* Richard Henry Lee (born at Stratford, Va., Jan. 20, 1732; died at Chantilly, Va., June 19, 1794) was a member of Congress from Virginia, 1774–1780 and 1784–1787. James Lovell (born in Boston Oct. 31, 1737; died in Windham, Me., July 14, 1814) was a member of Congress from Massachusetts, 1776–1782. Mr. Lee served on an unusually large number of committees of Congress, and was repeatedly chosen on special committees for instructing the agents in foreign countries. Mr. Lovell was added to the committee on foreign affairs May 26, 1777. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. pp. 664, 665; vol. iv. pp. 35, 36; Lanman's Biographical Annals, pp. 255, 264, 487, 489; Life and Correspondence of R. H. Lee, by his grandson; Journals of Congress, vol. iii. p. 201. — EDS.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HORATIO GATES.

HARTFORD, May 30th, 1778.

SIR, — Yours of the 25th instant,* I recieved with its enclosures, which was laid before the Gen[l] Assembly. Whatever the object of the enemy may be in the movement you mention the appearance of danger rouses the attention of the Assembly to make such provision as was proper and necessary on their part to repel an invasion, and accordingly have resolved that those who have already enlisted into the six battalions heretofore ordered to be raised be immediately sent forward to the Saw Pits, that two battalions to consist of 728 men each, including officers, be forthwith raised by peremptory detachment from the militia, to continue in service two months, unless sooner discharged, and to be liable to do duty, either in or out of the State, as circumstances may require, and that three companies of light dragoons, consisting of 60 men each, be immediately raised in the same manner, for the same term, and for the like purpose, and will be forwarded with the greatest dispatch.

I send your Honor enclosed the copy of a letter addressed to me from W[m] Tryon, Esq[r], relative to some late Acts of Parliament containing overtures of reconciliation, &c., with the answer returned, together with the copy of a letter from me to the same gentleman, respecting a small bag addressed to me p[r] flag, &c.

By letters from General Sullivan of the 26th instant, we are informed that the enemy, taking advantage of our defenceless situation in that quarter, landed at Warwick about 700 men in the morning of the 25th, proceeded to Kickamnit, burnt the flat bottomed boats before a sufficient number from the country could be collected to make

* General Gates's letter to Governor Trumbull, of this date, was printed in 5 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. x. p. 318. — EDS.

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a successful opposition in their town; they destroyed a small magazine of powder, a number of carriages, and a small quantity of provisions, and had collected a number of cattle which they were obliged to leave to escape the force that had collected, and was almost up with them. When they embarked about 200 of our men, under the brave Colonel Barton, had got up with and engaged them for some time, but the number on our side was not then sufficient to do them much injury. The gallant Colonel was unfortunately wounded in the action; it is hoped it will not prove mortal. In this transaction we have a recent instance of that savage conduct which has characterized the enemy from the beginning of this controversy, which as in other instances, so in the present, it is hoped will be so far from subserving the cause they endeavour to support that it will be a means, by uniting our counsels and exciting our resentment, eventually to overturn that system of tyranny which the power of Britain has been engaged to establish.

Your express is necessarily detained to this day.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

J—— T——L.

Majr Gen. Gates.

WILLIAM GREENE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

Providence, State of R. Island, July 18th, 1778.

Sir, — Yours of the 13th instant, enclosing a resolve of your Council of Safety, came to hand, and I have laid the same before the Council of War here, and for answer I have to inform you that they approved of the resolve of your Council for discontinuing the couriers through the different States of New England, as the continental

* William Greene (born in Warwick, R. I., Aug. 16, 1731, died there Nov. 29, 1809) was Governor of Rhode Island from 1778 to 1786. — Eds.

† Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — Eds.

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posts now ride the stages regular. The courier from this State to Exeter in New Hampshire has rode from the 3^{d} day of January, 1778, at the rate of one hundred and twenty pounds for each quarter, and we propose to continue him in the business till the third day of Aug^{t} next.

Your Excellency will please to transmit to me by the next post the sum of money your State has advanced for the service of the courier from your State to this, that a general account may be stated, and an average properly made out, in order that the balances may be paid to whom due.

As to the commissions you mentioned, I have not any; otherwise should gladly have obliged you.

I have to inform your Excellency that on the night of the 15th instant twenty-one sail of transports arrived at Newport, supposed from New York, in which, it is said, are two thousand troops. Your Excellency can easily concieve the perplexed circumstances that this State must be in from the little attention our sister States pay to the protection of it. The Massachusetts, so far from sending the two hundred men they promised in lieu of that number of your State's quota, have not sent but about one third of their own. Every consideration of interest and honor calls on New England to keep up a sufficient army for the defence of these States that they may not tamely suffer the enemy to get footing in the main, and at this late day of the dispute, when we doubt not our invaders will soon be under a necessity to quit this land of liberty and retire to their abodes of tyranny, provided a spirited stand is now made.

I am, with the greatest esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient & most humble serv^{t}.

W. GREENE.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

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HENRY LAURENS* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

PHILADELPHIA, 19th July, 1778.

HON^BLE SIR, — In the recess of Congress I am called upon by his Excellency le S^r Girard, minister plenipotentiary from his Most Christian Majesty to the United States of America, in order to obtain from Connecticut such aids as his Excellency Count D'Estaing, Vice Admiral of France, commander of a squadron of ships of war of his Most Christian Majesty, may stand in need of, admitting Count D'Estaing shall proceed from Sandy Hook to Rhode Island.

I have therefore taken the liberty in the name of Congress to address your Honor, requesting you to afford all the assistance in your power to Count D'Estaing, upon his Excellency's requisition, for the general service of the French fleet, and for facilitating the Vice Admiral's intended operations, particularly that a sufficient number of skilful pilots may be held in constant readiness for conducting the fleet, if necessary, into New London.

From a reflexion that his Excellency General Washington has undoubtedly written to you on this subject, as well as from a certain persuasion that your Honor will upon every occasion cheerfully contribute to promote the service of his Most Christian Majesty, our good ally, in which the safety and welfare of these States are interwoven, I have intimated to Mons^r Girard that the present application will scarcely be necessary. By this as it may,

* Henry Laurens, of Huguenot descent, was born in Charleston, S. C., in 1724, and early engaged in mercantile pursuits. In 1776 he was elected a delegate to Congress, and from Nov., 1777 to Dec., 1778, served as President. In the following year he was appointed minister to Holland, but was captured on the voyage, carried to London, and imprisoned in the Tower for more than a year. He was finally exchanged for Lord Cornwallis, and was appointed one of the commissioners to treat for peace with Great Britain. After signing the preliminary articles he returned to the United States, and died in Charleston Dec. 8, 1792. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. pp. 630, 631. — EDS.

† Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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it is with great pleasure I embrace the opportunity of assuring your Honor of the continued good wishes, esteem & respect, with which I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

HENRY LAURENS,
Pres^t of Congress.

The Hon^ble JON^TH TRUMBULL, Esq^r,
Governor of Connecticutt.

JOHN SULLIVAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PROVIDENCE, July 24^th, 1778.

SIR, — Yesterday I recieved a letter from his Excellency General Washington, desiring me to call upon the several New England States for a body of militia to continue in this Department during his pleasure. The Congress by a resolve of the 11^th instant empowered his Excellency to call upon the States from New Hampshire to New Jersey for such militia as he may judge necessary to co-operate with the French fleet. At this request I therefore call upon Connecticut for five hundred men to march for this place compleatly equipped as soon as possible. I well know your State is greatly exhausted by the large reinforcements she has sent to the western army. But I need not urge the necessity of our making one vigorous exertion at this juncture. Reason and your own desire to give the mortal blow to our common enemy sufficiently points it out.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

JN° SULLIVAN.

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* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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JOHN SULLIVAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PROVIDENCE, July 24th, 1778.

SIR, — I have this moment letters from General Washington, by the hand of one of his aids, ordering me in the most positive terms to call on the New England States for assistance sufficient to make an attack on Rhode Island, in conjunction with the French fleet, and therefore wish you, notwithstanding my former letters, immediately to forward to Providence such number of militia as can possibly be spared from the State of Connecticut, also to communicate my request to the several independent companies and gentlemen volunteers, who you shall think will step forward at this time, to strike an effectual blow upon our common enemy. No time can be lost in forwarding the troops to this post.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

JN° SULLIVAN.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN SULLIVAN.

LEBANON, July 25th, 1778.

DEAR SIR, — Received your favor of the 24th this day by M^r Dabney. Agreeable to your request have ordered seven companies of infantry and one company of matrosses officered and equipped to march forthwith to join the forces under your command at Providence, which, I conclude, will make the compliment of men required, they being troops already raised in this State, but, being stationed at different parts, will require some more time than otherwise would be necessary in order

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to join you, yet is much the most expeditious method that could be adopted of affording you succour.

The French fleet, I am advised by General Washington, are on their way to Newport, which before this I conclude you have recieved intelligence of by Col° Laurens.

I could wish our exertions might be such at this juncture, in conjunction with the French fleet as to give a mortal blow to our inveterate enemies, and cause them to relinquish their cruel and tyrannical purposes towards America.

I have the misfortune to acquaint you that my son, the late Commissary General, departed this life on the 23d instant about four o'clock, A. M., after a long and tedious illness. The Lord reigneth, and whatsoever he doth is right. Although this dispensation of Providence toucheth me nearly I would not murmur or repine, but rather improve in virtue by the things I suffer.

I am, with esteem and regard, Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant,

J. T——L.

Majr Genl Sullivan.

JOHN SULLIVAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

Providence, July 25th, 1778.

Dear Sir, — The first letter from Genl Washington informing of the Count D'Estaing's intention of coming to Rhode Island unfortunately was not recieved by me till the 23d instant. His other letter, in which I am ordered to collect together the troops in this and the neighbouring States for the intent of co-operating with the Count was recieved the 24th. In consequence of which every thing possible is done that could be within so short a period. But I am under the necessity of re-

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questing you to forward with the greatest imaginable dispatch such quantity of provisions as you may have in your power for the sustinence of the troops collected and now collecting; for unless this is done I shall be obliged to disband them, not having any here of consequence for their support. I am very sorry to find that the provisions which I expected were designed for this port have been sent from Westborough to headquarters. Had my expectation been answered I should not now have been obliged to trouble you.

I expect to hear of the Count's arrival every hour, and I am without either provisions or troops to co-operate with him. I must therefore beg every assistance from you that you can possibly grant, and am, my dear Sir, with much esteem and respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

Jn° Sullivan.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN SULLIVAN.

Lebanon, 27th July, 1778.

Sir, — Since writing mine of the 25th I recieved another of yours of the 24th, requesting such number of militia as can possibly be spared from this State. My Council was just before dismissed till Tuesday morning; shall then take up the consideration of it. We are impressed with the importance of the design to dislodge our cruel foes from any footing in your State, as from any part of the continent. Just after this I recieved yours of the 25th requesting me to forward with the greatest dispatch imaginable such quantity of provisions as is in our power. In the mean time, to prevent danger from delay, I have enclosed an order on Samuel Elliot, Esqr, our agent at Boston, to deliver you or your order, or the Commissary General or his order, for the use of the Continental

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troops at Providence, to be replaced or accounted for, fifty barrels of beef. The consideration of this must refer untill the meeting of my Council to-morrow. Please to forward the enclosed to M^r^ Elliot.

I am, with great esteem & regard, Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant,

J—— T——L.

Maj^r^ General SULLIVAN.

SAMUEL ELLIOT, JR.,* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

BOSTON, August 3^d^, 1778.

HON^D^ SIR, — I have to acquaint you by M^r^ Wasson of the arrival of the Ship Defence in this harbour from Charlestown. It was very unfortunate for the whole that permission was not given Cap^t^ Smedley to leave his ship out and clean her bottom. It would have been much for the advantage of the State and the crew. But as it was not granted, it certainly was prudent to put into port. M^r^ Wasson was on board the ship; he will be able to give your Excellency a particular account of their transactions.

Cap^t^ Smedley did himself much honor by going out of Charlestown and capturing two of the enemy's privateers and carrying safe into port. He informs me that they were committed to the care of Rose and Torrans.

Your Excellency may depend on my attention to the interest of the State; and as I have almost every article wanted for fitting out a warlike ship the Defence may be ready in a very short time for a cruize, either off Sandy Hook, Newport, the Sound, or anywhere else.

If it would not trouble you too much, I would request

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* Samuel Eliot, Jr., or Elliot, as the name was often written, was the third son of the Rev. Dr. Andrew Eliot. See note, *ante*, p. 53. — EDS.

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the favor of answer to mine and Mr Shirley's letter of the 6th of July. Mr Shirley appears very uneasy about them.

I remain

Your dutiful servant.

Samk Elliot, Junr.

Govr Trumbull.

SAMUEL SMEDLEY* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

Boston, August 3d, 1778.

Honr Sir, — I am to inform your Excellency of the ship Defence's arrival into this port after a cruise from Charlestown of about four weeks, not so successful as I could wish, but the ship being so very foul (it being more than eight months since she was cleaned) obliged me to come into port. The authority of Charlestown would not permit me to lay my ship on shore, but obliged me to perform quarantine at the harbour's mouth, on account of my having had the smallpox on board during the cruize. They would not suffer the ship to go up to Charlestown, notwithstanding the repeated promises I had of being permitted every week. Could I have gone up to Charlestown, the ship might have been compleatly fitted for the sea, which was my entire view in going into that place. But after waiting week after week without any prospect of being in the end suffered to go on with cleaning my ship, I was obliged to put the ship into the best condition my bad situation would allow and proceed to sea. After this was done I recieved intelligence from the Governor of there being three privateers cruizing on the coast, which greatly annoyed them, with his desire that I would proceed immediately after that [them?], which I accord-

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* Samuel Smedley was promoted to be first lieutenant of the brig Defence Jan. 10, 1777, and in February was appointed captain "for the present cruise." He appears to have continued in command of the vessel, and to have been quite successful in making captures. See Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776,-Feb., 1778, pp. 156, 168. — Eds.

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ingly did, and had the fortune to fall in with them, two of which I soon captured; the other made off while they were securing the prisoners on board. The next day I got safe with them into Charlestown, with a large Bermudian sloop of twelve guns and 72 men, and a sloop of eight guns & 36 men. The prisoners I delivered to authority. The vessels I delivered to Mr Rose, who will transmit to your Excellency a particular account of the whole. My clerk, Mr Wasson, will be able to answer any particular enquiries your Excellency pleases to make. My people's times are out. They will expect their wages and discharge. I wait your Excellency's orders about the ship, which I am ever happy to obey.

I am, with the most profound respect,

Your Excellency's most obliged & most obedient,

SAML SMEDLEY.

Mr Wasson will deliver into your hands the commissions of the two prize sloops.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SAMUEL SMEDLEY.

LEBANON, 6th Augt, 1778.

SIR, — Mr Wasson delivered me yesterday your letter of the 3d instant. I do sincerely congratulate you on your success, both first and last. Your conduct meets approbation. Your further directions and orders are contained in the resolve of myself and Council and in my orders which are enclosed, and wish you success in your intended cruize.

I am respectfully, Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant,

J—— T——L.

Capt SAML SMEDLEY.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SAMUEL ELIOT, JR.

LEBANON, 6th August, 1778.

SIR, — Yours of the 3d instant Mr Wasson delivered me yesterday. Enclosed is a resolve of myself & Council for your direction relative to Capt Smedley and his ship The Defiance. How you are in cash am unable to judge. The order I had on our Treasurer in your favor have done nothing upon, hoping you would not have occasion for it, after the coming in of the two last prizes. Hope you are able to supply the money necessary for Capt Smedley. All possible dispatch is necessary to get him to sea again at this important juncture; and do not doubt your diligent attention to the interest of this State.

You are acquainted with my melancholy situation occasioned by the death of my son, and my necessary attention to him during his sickness and death at my house. God grant that I may make a wise improvement of this mournful dispensation of his holy Providence, & hearken to this call to be also ready.

I have enclosed a flag for Mr Shirley, &c., left blank for the name of the vessel, and also the purposes on the back, both to be filled by you. Suppose he would not incline to fall into the hurricane months. Have wrote to the President and Council to give him leave to hire a vessel to go out of the port of Boston. You will transact the matter in the best manner for him and this State, take his parole for himself and such of his as are proper for the exchange, also Mr Phipps' parole.

Please to inform what may be further necessary concerning him and any other of the affairs of this State.

I am most respectfully, Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant,

JONTH TRUMBULL.

SAML ELLIOT, Junr, Esqr.

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ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, Aug^t 10^th^, 1778.

SIR, — I hope your Excellency will not impute my omitting to write so long a time to neglect of duty; the true reason was, I have had nothing important to write. We have no late accounts from foreign parts, nor has anything remarkable occurred here. Congress has been employed about the ordinary affairs of the Continent. The minister plenipotentiary from the court of France had a public audience last Thursday; the manner of it is contained in the enclosed paper. The operations of war being at the eastward, your Excellency has earlier intelligence of them than we have here. Our affairs wear a prosperous aspect, except the currency. I expected it would have been attended to by Congress long before now, but a multiplicity of other affairs have prevented it. I am appointed one of a committee to repair [to ?] the camp, and assist in the new arrangement of the army.

The Indians and more barbarous Tories have desolated our settlements at Westmoreland. Congress sent two regiments of Continental troops with some militia to repel the enemy. The account given in a Poughkeepsie paper is said to be much beyond the truth. Expect to go to the army this week, and from thence intend to go home before I return to this place.

I heartily condole with your Excellency the death of your son, the late Commissary General; his great public services deserve a grateful remembrance.

I am, with great esteem,

Your Excellency's obedient, hble. servant.

ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

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TITUS HOSMER* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

PHILADELPHIA, August 11, 1778.

SIR, — Since my arrival at Congress nothing of a public nature has presented to furnish the subject of a letter that your Excellency would not be apprized of by the public papers more fully and at large than you could in a private letter. The removal of Congress from Yorktown and the reception of the French minister have engrossed a great part of our time, the remainder has been spent principally in the common routine of business which arises daily, and tho' very necessary to be done, could not deserve your Excellency's attention in the recital. The extreme heat of the season which threw me into a slight fever on the road confined me several days, and having kept me in a feverish habit ever since, hath obliged me to be cautious of writing or applying to any business or exercise tending to encrease it.

Congress are very industrious, yet many affairs of great importance are crouded out and postponed by an inevitable attention to events and business constantly arising; and although I have nothing of consequence to inform you of which they have done, I have many things I can mention which they have not done. They have not taken into consideration the state of our paper currency, nor divised any means to stop the headlong current of depreciation. They have not settled their accounts with the army, the Commissary General, the Quartermaster General, the Clothier General, the Commercial Committee, or any other large department.

They have not settled any mode by and in which they

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* Titus Hosmer was born in Middletown, Conn., in 1736, graduated at Yale College in 1757, and practised law. He was a delegate to Congress in 1775 and 1776, and from 1777 to 1779. He died in Middletown Aug. 4, 1780. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. pp. 268, 269; Lanman's Biographical Annals, pp. 211, 487; Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 468–470. — EDS.

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can call their great servants authoritatively to account for the expenditure of public monies. They have not constituted and empowered a Board of Treasury nor a Marine Board, though each seems to be generally allowed to be necessary to release the attendance of members of Congress, and give them leisure to attend to more general and necessary business, which can be done only in Congress or by its members. All these matters are in prospect, and are to be attended to as soon and as fast as other business will admit, yet I fear much time will elapse before they are brought to a conclusion.

I beg leave to condole with your Excellency in the loss you have sustained in your amiable son, the late Commissary General. I am sensible your own mind must have suggested every argument and consolation which reason or religion can furnish, yet permit me to express my tender concern and wish that you may be supported under so severe a trial, and that your important loss may be compensated by spiritual blessings.

I have made it my business since I was here to endeavour to sap the foundation, and overturn that resolve which forbids issuing money to any person out of office untill his accounts are settled, which appears to me in many cases very unreasonable, and had good hopes soon to accomplish it with the assistance of sundry gentlemen of more experience and weight than I could pretend to, but am now at a loss how to apply to the advantage of the late Commissary General's accounts, if effected, or what method will be adopted for their settlement; but shall be always happy to contribute all in my power to procure justice to be done to the family and heirs of one for whom I had so great an esteem and friendship, whom I always beleived to possess strict integrity and to have served his country with honor and fidelity and great success.

Will your Excellency be pleased to remember me to

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Col° Williams and M^r^ Wales, to whom I intended to have wrote by this post, but the time will fail me, and to the other gentlemen of your Council, and permit me to subscribe myself,

Your Excellency's most respectful, most obedient,
and most hble. servant,

His Excellency Gov^r^ TRUMBULL. TITUS HOSMER.

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PROVIDENCE, 14th August, 1778.

SIR, — I recieved an express last night from Maj^r^ General Sullivan at his head quarters, now on the island of Rhode Island, informing of me that by the severity of the storm he has been so unfortunate as to have [lost?] almost the whole of his cartridges, and therefore requests me to send him as many as can be procured, and having here but about 12,000 of them, and half a ton of powder, which I have ordered to be made up into musquet cartridges immediately, lays me under a necessity to call upon your Excellency, that in case you can procure any musquet cartridges or pistol powder, so as to make it worth while, considering the quantity, to send them forward, that you will please to forward them with the utmost dispatch.

I have also wrote to Major General Heath upon the same subject.

The French fleet sailed from here last Monday, in pursuit of the fleet which lay in the offing, commanded by Lord Howe, and as the wind has been so violent, I fear they will not be able to return again soon.

I am, with much respect,
Your obedient, hble. servant,
W^m^ GREENE.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO WILLIAM GREENE.

LEBANON, 14th Aug., 1778.

SIR, — I received this moment your letter of this date, and have instantly sent to Ebenezer Devotion, Esq^r, at Scotland Society, in Windham, to forward to you without delay one hundred barrels of musquet powder in his custody, which hope will be with you immediately. There is two hundred barrels more at Norwich, if needed. Cartridges and bullets to make them up are not to be had here, or at least very scarce. The bullets are not lost in those which are wet. Hope for a speedy return of the fleet. The storm indeed was heavy. The Supreme Director of all events hath the government in his hands. Let our waiting eyes be on Him.

I am most respectfully, Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant,

His Excellency Gov^r GREENE. JON^TH TRUMBULL.

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PROVIDENCE, Aug. 14th, 1778.

SIR, — I wrote your Excellency this morning for cartridges to supply our army on Rhode Island; being then in great haste I forgot whether I mentioned to you in case you had no cartridges ready made, to forward the powder immediately to this place where we make it into cartridges, and forward them as fast as made. I beg your Excellency to forward it as soon as possible, as the army is in the greatest want.

I am, with great esteem, Sir,

Your most obedient, hble. servant,

Gov^r TRUMBULL. W. GREENE.

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SILAS DEANE * TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL. †

PHILADELPHIA, August 20th, 1778.

SIR, — I wrote you several letters whilst abroad, but as I received none in return I supposed that the important business you have been constantly in prevented your answering them, or that your letters have failed by the common accidents of the times. The latter I am the more disposed to conclude the case, as I flatter myself I have ever held a place in your memory and friendship, and as the letters I wrote your worthy son lately deceased met with the same fate. Be assured, Sir, I feel most sincerely for the heavy loss you have sustained. The intimate friendship which had long subsisted between us uninterruptedly, even from our earliest acquaintance with each other, makes me feel for my own loss by this event, and it is under such circumstances that we are ever most sincerely affected for others. I know that under every misfortune in life you have consolations superior to any in my power to administer, and that compliments of condolence, too commonly but empty and impertinent, must be peculiarly so when addressed to a person of your superior reason and piety, a sense of which forbids my saying more on the mournful subject.

As I apprehend I shall not soon have the honor of waiting on you in Connecticut, I shall be happy in being favored with a correspondence, as far as the important

* Silas Deane was born in Groton, Conn., Dec. 24, 1737, graduated at Yale College in 1758, and shortly afterward engaged in business pursuits. He was a delegate to Congress from Connecticut from 1774 to 1776. In the latter year he was sent to France as a political and financial agent for the united colonies. There he became involved in a quarrel with one of his colleagues, Arthur Lee, and in 1777 he was recalled in consequence of dissatisfaction with the arrangements he had made in his official capacity. Failing to satisfy Congress, he went abroad to obtain additional evidence in his favor; but he was not well received by the French authorities, and he then went to Holland and afterward to England, where he died in great want, at Deal, Aug. 23, 1789. (See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. ii. p. 116; Lanman's Biographical Annals, pp. 114, 115; Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 521–527.) Five volumes of Deane Papers have been published by the New York Historical Society. — EDS.

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affairs in which you are constantly engaged will admit on your part. I expect to return to Europe in the course of the autumn coming, and if in my power to serve you or your friends, I shall be happy in receiving your commands, and as I shall probably spend some time abroad, if on any occasion I can be serviceable to the State of Connecticut, it will give me the greatest pleasure to receive and execute their orders.

I most sincerely congratulate your Excellency and the State you preside over on the happy issue of our negotiations in France. I doubt not they will be equally fortunate elswhere, and that we shall very soon enjoy under a settled and permanent peace the blessings of liberty and independence. When I reflect that the United Provinces of Holland supported a war of more than seventy years, with very little intermission, before any one power in Europe acknowledged them free and independent states, and that the Swiss Cantons never obtained an acknowledgment of their sovereignty untill in the last years, when it was for the first time formally done by France in a treaty with them, I can but consider ourselves peculiarly happy in obtaining ours in so short a space of time.

I have the honor to be, with the most sincere respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient

and very hble. servant.

His Excellency Gov^r^ TRUMBULL. SILAS DEANE.

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PROVIDENCE, 25^th^ August, 1778.

SIR, — I am informed by the Deputy Commissary of Ordnance Stores that nearly the whole of the powder that was remaining in this town has this instant by him been sent forward to the army, and as there is the greatest probability of there being a further demand for that

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article very soon, thought it my duty to request your Excellency to send forward with all possible dispatch at least one hundred barrels more, as I know of no other quarter it can be so easily procured from. It may be well to mention to whoever may have the care of sending it forward that they inspect the casks before it be loaded, as I was informed there was a loss of one cask in the quantity sent here the other day, for want, as I suppose, of the cask not being properly examined.

I make no doubt before this reaches your Excellency that you have recieved the intelligence of the Count D'Estaing having left us, and that at a time when every circumstance, excepting his conduct, promised success, but notwithstanding every argument that was made use of by the Generals of the army, he has with his whole fleet proceeded to Boston. I heard the enemy landed last night on the main land, and carried off two men, but what other damage they have committed I have not as yet learnt, but as the whole of our fencible men is now on duty on Rhode Island, except about sixty, mostly invalids, left to guard the town of Providence, they now have it in their power to land a small party upon any part of our seacoast, and commit what destruction they may think proper, that I think there is a very great appearance of the destruction of this State, notwithstanding our exertions in straining every nerve to reduce the enemy, for want of that assistance which the New England States certainly, according to human appearance, have in their power, notwithstanding the conduct of the French fleet. As the enemy have several small vessels cruising in our Bay, and very likely others in the Sound, I think it may be very dangerous for the vessels which I hear are within your State coming this way.

I am, with much respect,

Your obedient, humble servant.

Gov^r^ TRUMBULL. W. GREENE.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HENRY LAURENS.

LEBANON, 25th August, 1778.

SIR, — I have recieved your favor of the 8th inst. with the enclosures.

The probable failure of a second attempt against Rhode Island, occasioned by an unexpected resolution of the French fleet to go to Boston for repairs of their damages sustained in the late very heavy gale of wind, in which they were unfortunate enough to be at sea, fills me with great anxiety, and will doubtless put a new aspect on our affairs. I am very sorry they had not run themselves into New London, which is a very capacious and convenient harbour, where I think they might have repaired their losses with safety to themselves and security to our army on Rhode Island, whose operations against the enemy must probably now cease, and their attention to be turned to getting themselves a safe footing upon the continent. With a suitable co-operation of the fleet our prospects of success were very promising.

In my last I mentioned the death of my son, the late Commissary General. I have been turning my thoughts on the manner of getting a settlement of his accounts with the continent, and of his estate. Mr Hoskins, his head clerk, is at Boston; have sent for him. He will afford every assistance in his power. He is a person who understands the affairs of the deceased with relation to his Commissary accounts best of any one now living. Have thought it will be best to have some directions of the Honble Congress, and for that purpose have proposed to Colonel Dyer to go to Congress about the middle of next month, by him to send my memorial. By that time some one of our members will probably be desirous to be released, in which Colonel Dyer may supply his seat. It may take some time to deliberate on the subject of

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my memorial. In the mean time I think it not best for any one to intermeddle in the estate untill the resolution of Congress is known, how far they will think proper to interfere in settlement of the public accounts.

You will please to send me p^r^ Brown two or three dozen commissions for armed vessels.

I am, with great esteem & regard, Sir,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

JON^TH^ TRUMBULL.

Hon^ble^ HENRY LAURENS, Esq^r^, President of Congress.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO ROGER SHERMAN, TITUS HOSMER, AND ANDREW ADAMS.*

LEBANON, 25^th^ August, 1778.

SIR, — The receipt of yours of 10^th^ ult^o^ p^r^ M^r^ Brown, I think, has not been acknowledged before this. The distresses in which that found me, occasioned by the sickness of my son, the late Commissary General, his death on the 23^d^, and the melancholy of my mind, which succeeded that event has prevented till this time. I am now sending M^r^ Brown to Philadelphia. I am exceedingly anxious to see our Confederation compleated. The four States, — how long must the others wait for them? If they are not like to comply soon, should we not confederate without them?

Our expectations from the expedition against Rhode Island are again like to be blasted. The French fleet, which have suffered considerably from the late very unusual gale of wind, have taken a resolution to go for Boston to refit and repair their damages. This event will

* Andrew Adams was born in Stratford, Conn., in January, 1736, graduated at Yale College, and studied law. He was one of the delegates to Congress, 1777–1780, and 1781, 1782. In 1789 he was made one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and in 1793 he was appointed Chief Justice. He died in Litchfield Nov. 26, 1797. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. i. p. 12; Lanman's Biographical Annals, pp. 1, 487; Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 640, 641. — EDS.

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put our army on too precarious a footing to remain long on an island; unless some sudden and desperate attempt is made (which I wish them to avoid) I think their operations against the enemy must cease and their whole attention be turned to getting themselves safe landed on the continent. I wish *this* may be effected without loss. I was in hopes the fleet would have run themselves into New London, where I think their damages might be repaired with safety to them, and the same time their lying in harbour so contiguous to Rhode Island might have proved a security to the operations of the army. But they are gone, and with them are fled our fond hopes of success from this enterprise. This event will put a new aspect on our affairs. The Lord reigneth is our hope; let it be our trust and confidence.

Colonel Dyer, who has had a long recess from Congress, is now willing to return to a seat again. If either of the gentlemen now there are desirous to return to Connecticut his absence may be supplied by the Colonel, who will be at Congress probably the middle of next month on business relating to the account and estate of the late Commissary General, which will probably take some time for deliberation, and during which time Colonel Dyer may take a seat in Congress.

I am, with esteem and regard, gent^{n},

Your obedient, hble. servant.

JONTH TRUMBULL.

Hon^{ble} ROGER SHERMAN, TITUS HOSMER, and ANDREW ADAMS, Esq^{rs}.

TITUS HOSMER AND ANDREW ADAMS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, 29th August, 1778.

SIR, — The desire we have of preserving every appearance of attention in our correspondence with your Ex-

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cellency induces us to embrace this opportunity to write by Major Bigelow, though nothing very material hath come to our knowledge worthy to be communicated. The finances of the States are at present the principal subject of the deliberations of Congress. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday of every week are set apart for this purpose; but little progress is yet made. A plan of organizing a Board of Treasury is laid before Congress, and is to be taken into consideration this day. It is long and complex, — time will not allow us to attempt giving you an abstract of it.

The army on the North River is lying still to watch the motions of Sir Henry Clinton in New York. The Rhode Island expedition seems only fruitful of events: these operations must be better known to your Excellency than to us.

Various accounts give us reason to fear an extensive confederacy to fall upon our frontiers is forming under the auspices of Col° Butler and other British incendiaries among the Indian nations, and unless prevented by some speedy and vigorous movements on our part may open a scene of ravage and desolation on our borders more distressing than any this war, calamitous as it has been, hath presented. The Senecas, Otawawas, Weandauts, and Mingos (if we are not mistaken) are the principal of the hostile tribes, and threaten to fall upon the Indian nations who will not join. Gen M°Intosh is at Fort Pitt, where he is to be joined by fifteen hundred men from Virginia, and to fall upon the settlements of such of the hostile Indians as are nearest to him. Carrying the war into their settlements is thought the best expedient to break their confederacy, and induce them to give over their hostile designs.

Our European intelligence gives us reason to expect that a treaty of neutrality and commerce with Holland will soon be concluded, and continues to assure us of

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the favorable regards of most of the great powers of Europe.

We have nothing further worthy your Excellency's notice; a flood of small business daily pours in from every part of the continent, and pushes aside the great and important concerns of the States which we can only lament as an evil at present inevitable, and worthy to be remedied if any remedy can be found for it.

Permit us to add our cordial wishes that your Excellency's important services may be continued, and that you may live to see the fruits of your labour in the establishment of liberty, peace, and happiness in these States, and to assure you that we are, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servant.

TITUS HOSMER.
ANDREW ADAMS.

JABEZ BOWEN* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

PROVIDENCE, Sunday Morning, 6 o'clock,
[Aug. 30, 1778.]

DEAR SIR, — By an express bound to New London, from the Commissioners of the Navy Board, I have the pleasure to inform you, that night before last our army retreated from their ground that they occupied, to the north part of the island, where they arrived at one o'clock. At six the enemy moved out in force to attack. They were gallantly recieved by Colonels Livingston and Lawrence with the light troops, and soon retreated to the main body by orders, their numbers being very un-

* Jabez Bowen was born in Providence, R. I., June 2, 1739, and graduated at Yale College in 1757. He was a judge of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, 1776–1778, and Chief Justice 1780, 1781. From 1778 to 1786 he was Deputy Governor of the State. He died in Providence, May 7, 1815. See Historical Catalogue of Brown University, p. 327; Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 452–454. — EDS.

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equal. Two of the enemy's ships of war, with several tenders, gained our right flank and began a fire. The enemy then endeavoured to turn our right under this fire, and attempted a redoubt in front of our right. Majr General Green who commanded the right wing advanced upon them with two or three regiments, and being soon reinforced drove them back in disorder. The enemy repeated the attempt three times, and were as often repulsed. Our officers and men as well militia as others, behaved with the greatest fortitude, not giving up one inch of ground the whole day.

They then attempted to turn our left, but being advanced upon by Genl Glover they halted on the ground they then occupied. The fire of the musquetry lasted with intermissions for near seven hours, and a severe canonade was kept up thro' the whole day. The enemy have taken some hights about one mile in our front (formerly fortified with some works by them), from whence 'tis supposed they will retreat this evening.

General Sullivan writes to me at nine o'clock last evening, that the victory was compleat, but our loss considerable. A messenger sent on yesterday reports that we had about one hundred killed and wounded; the enemy near five. Major Shirburn of New Hampshire has lost a leg, and one of Marquis's aids an arm. General Hancock and the Marquis are both in Boston. Colo John Trumbull is well, as he signed the pass for the light horseman that brought the letter.

I am, in much haste,

Your Excellency's humble servant.

JABEZ BOWEN.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

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JOHN TRUMBULL* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

HEAD QUARTERS ON BUTTS HILL, RHODE ISLAND,
30th August, 1778.

HONR SIR, — When I wrote you last we were in momently expectation of an order to retreat; accordingly after having sent off all our heavy cannon, baggage, &c., we retired on Friday night with the army. The right wing of the front line marched on the west road; the left with the whole second line and reserve, with their own and all the heavy artillery on the east road, marched at nine o'clock. The advanced corps of the army marched at 10, and the piquet guard followed at 12. We arrived on our present ground without the smallest interruption. At 7 o'clock the advanced parties posted about 2 miles in our front on the two roads were attacked (as they first supposed by the small parties only of the enemy), but as they soon found by three British regiments on the east road, comprising the enemy's right, and four or five Hessian on the west, composing their left. After a severe action our parties were ordered to retire. I delivered the order on the east road, and for the first time was exposed to real danger. The parties retired in very good order, tho' pushed by a far superior force. The enemy advanced with great order till they found themselves checked by the fire of six eighteen pounders and our small field artillery. They halted on the descent of Quaker Hill, and

* John Trumbull was the fourth son and youngest child of Governor Trumbull. He was born in Lebanon June 6, 1756, graduated at Harvard College in 1773, and at the outbreak of the war attracted the notice of Washington, who immediately appointed him an aid-de-camp. On several occasions he showed great courage and ability, but a military career had slender attractions for him, and in 1777 he retired from the army to devote himself to painting. In this pursuit the greater part of his subsequent life was engaged; and he produced a large number of historical pictures and portraits. He died in New York Nov. 10, 1843. See Hine's Early Lebanon, pp. 93, 102–107; Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. vi. pp. 168, 169; Trumbull's Autobiography, Reminiscences, and Letters. — EDS.

† Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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formed in order of battle; there remained quiet for near an hour, when a considerable force of Hessians and British infantry advanced on our right covered by two ships of war, and advanced to gain our flank. The ships after giving two or three broadsides were obliged to withdraw from the shot of 2–24s on Bristol Hill and 2–18s which we carried down on the beach. Meantime the enemy pushed us vigorously, and, as we did not at first apprehend their design, for some time gained ground so far as near 100 y^{ds} in rear of an advanced redoubt which they attempted to carry. In this moment the General ordered down two Continental regiments to support those already engaged, and to attack the enemy's left, while Gen^{l} Lovel's brigade of Mass. militia were ordered to attempt their right and rear. I was directed to lead them. Before we gained our posts the enemy gave way to the Continental troops and run so precipitately that we had time only to give them two or three fires on their flank, which added wings to their flight.

The militia behaved with admirable spirit, and followed the enemy to small musquet shot of a redoubt on a high knole. Here I halted them behind a stone fence, and rode forward to observe the situation of the enemy who I knew must be near. On rising the hill about pistol shot from the redoubt I found myself in musquet shot of about 300 of the enemy, who were a little advanced of their whole left line. Had we been sure of support I should have ordered the troops on to the redoubt, which would instantly have brought on a general action. I am now sorry we did not push, as I believe it would have been fortunate.

There was some small action on the left at the same time, where we were equally successful, and the day terminated wholly in our favor. We have about sixty men killed, and 180 wounded, according to our best accounts (the returns are not yet made in). The enemy must have

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lost more in number, as they recieved several well aimed fires after they broke and run.

We were very quiet since the action; whether we shall attack them is not certain; that they will not us I believe is very sure. I shall write again by Strong. Major Shirburn of Portsmouth has lost a leg, and Majr Walker of Boston is killed; several other officers are wounded. Lieut Wm Livingston was touched by two spent ball in the breast, & had his horse's head shot off by a 12 lb. shot. On the whole all our troops, both Continental and militia, behaved admirably well.

With the best duty to you and my mother, and love to all friends, I am, hond Sir,

Your son,

JOHN TRUMBULL.

Govr TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO R. SHERMAN, T. HOSMER, AND A. ADAMS.

LEBANON, 31st August, 1778.

GENTLEMEN, — Your three distinct favors of 10th & 11th of August have been duly received. Enclosed you will find copies of two letters, one of 2nd April, the other of 5th May, which were sent the marine committee in recommendation of Capt. Seth Harding. To the last I have received no reply. Capt. Harding will now attend Congress and the committee in person. It will not be necessary to add anything more than is said in the enclosed copies. I wish you to exert your influence in his favor. His influence upon the seamen is singular. It is worthy of notice how difficult it is to man our Continental ships. Believe if he is commissioned there will be no such difficulty with him.

I have an account of an action on Rhode Island between the enemy and our army. Friday night General Sullivan with his troops effected a retreat to the

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north end of the island. Saturday morning the enemy came out in force to attack him. They were gallantly received by the light troops under command of Colonels Livingston and Laurens, who being greatly overnumbered were ordered to retreat to the main body. The enemy under cover of a fire from their ships and tenders attempted to turn the right flank of our army. They were prevented. They then attempted a redoubt in front of our right; here they were opposed by General Greene, who repulsed them in three several attacks. An attempt was then made on our left. General Glover met and obliged them to halt on their ground. The fire of musquetry with some intermissions continued seven hours; a canonade the whole day. Great merit is due to all the troops, as well militia as others. The enemy have taken some heights, formerly fortified by them, in front of General Sullivan, about one mile from him. Whether they intend to attempt an annoyance of our troops from that situation, or that they will retreat, remains for time to open to us.

I am, with great esteem & regard, gentlemen,
Your most obedient, hble. servant.
JON^TH^ TRUMBULL.

Hon^ble^ R. SHERMAN, T. HOSMER & AND^W^ ADAMS, Esq^rs^.

TITUS HOSMER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, Aug^t^ 31^st^, 1778.

SIR, — We were this day honored with your favor of the 25^th^ instant. M^r^ Sherman is at present with the army on a committee to arrange the affairs in the battalions, and reduce them to the form prescribed in a plan lately adopted by Congress, which I presume your Excellency

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has had laid before you. Mr Adams and myself joined in a letter to your Excellency which went by Major Bigelow on Saturday last, since which nothing hath happened to make a public letter necessary.

I lament with you, Sir, the sickness and death of your son, and the distress and melancholy it hath occasioned to you, your family, and his near connections and friends, and am pleased to find Colo Dyer hath undertaken his accounts and business. When he arrives, as Mr Elsworth is to releive Mr Adams it will naturally fall to me to give place to him; I shall do it with pleasure, as I have informed him by this post.

I wish I could with truth assure your Excellency that in my view our affairs are in a happy train, and that Congress has adopted wise and effectual measures to restore our wounded public credit and to establish the United States their liberty, union, and happiness upon a solid and permanent foundation. I dare not do it, while my heart is overwhelmed with the most melancholy presages. The idleness and captiousness of some gentlemen, maugre the wishes and endeavours of an honest and industrious majority, in my apprehension, threaten the worst consequences.

The Southern States are fixed against holding Congress more than once a day; our hours are fixed from nine in the forenoon to two in the afternoon. If these were punctually attended it would be perhaps as much as could be spared from committees, other business which must be done out of Congress hours. Nine States make a Congress; some States have delegates so very negligent, so much immersed in the pursuit of pleasure or business, that it is very rare we can make a Congress before near eleven o'clock, and this evil seems incapable of a remedy as Congress hath no mean to compel gentlemen's attendance, and those who occasion the delay are callous to admonition and reproof, which have been often

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tried in vain. When we are assembled several gentlemen have such a knack at starting questions of order, raising debates upon critical, captious, and trifling amendments, protracting them by long speeches, by postponing, calling for the previous question, and other arts, that it is almost impossible to get an important question decided at one sitting; and if it is put over to another day, the field is open to be gone over again, precious time is lost, and the public business left undone.

I am sorry to add that the opposition between the States, and the old prejudices of North against South, and South against North, seem to be reviving, and are industriously heightened by some, who, I fear, would be but too well pleased to see our union blasted and our independence broken and destroyed.

I wish what I have wrote may not seem too much like complaining of Congress; but besides that, I am sure it is a just picture of our present situation. When I look back and see how little has been done since I came here, and consider how much there was to do, and the vast importance that it should be done without loss of time, I feel myself under an obligation to account for my own conduct among others, and can think of no better way to do it, than by telling the truth, which I do the more freely because I can appeal to every gentleman in Congress whether any blame lies upon Connecticut, whether she hath ever been an hour unrepresented, or whether any time hath been lost by the remissness or captiousness or longwindedness of her delegates; besides, tho' while hopes of a speedy reform prevailed I thought it prudent to be silent, now those hopes have vanished I thought it best, and my duty, to state our real, though unhappy, situation to your Excellency, that we might have the benefit of your wisdom and advice in concerting proper measures to retrieve us from the unhappy lethargy (shall I call it phrenzy?) into which we have fallen.

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Major Adams hath seen what I have wrote above, as far as it respects Congress and their mode of doing business, and permits me to fortify my narration with his concurrent testimony. I have not taken the liberty to hint anything of the above to any friends, except to Col° Dyer in a letter of this date, as I hope yet some measures may be fallen upon to remedy the evil, and it may not be so proper to throw out anything that may become public to lessen Congress in the general estimation, at a time when the British Commissioners are preparing to appeal from them to the people at large, and would be pleased to lay hold of anything which might affect their character in the minds of their constituents, in hopes to derive an advantage from it.

I have only to add my wishes and prayers for the preservation of your Excellency's important life and the continuance of your usefulness, and to subscribe myself, with the greatest respect, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

TITUS HOSMER.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN SULLIVAN.

LEBANON, 4^th^ Septem^r^, 1778.

SIR, — A large fleet of British ships with troops on board appearing off, and taking their station near New London, has put this part of the country into alarm. Yesterday they passed the harbour in the morning from eastward; about 2 o'clk. they put about and appeared opposite to, and made an appearance of coming into harbour. At evening they anchored near the main shore, giving reason to suspect their design of landing in the night. This day they remain as last night, and having never attempted any landing, nor altered their station,

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their intentions are yet unknown. Our militia are collecting, and numbers are arrived at New London. In this situation I find myself under a necessity to request from you a release of all the militia from this State in State of Rhode Island under your command. Also if it be consistent with your intentions that you send into this State so many other troops as your circumstances and situation can afford. We have a rumour that the enemy are evacuating Newport. If this should be the case I am rather inclined to think that this circumstance added to some others indicate no unfavorable prospect. I shall depend on your furnishing me with all the assistance in your power. Expresses are gone to General Washington.

I am, with respect & esteem, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

JON^TH^ TRUMBULL.

Hon^ble^ Maj^r^ Gen^l^ SULLIVAN.

ANDREW ADAMS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, 5^th^ Septemb^r^, 1778.

SIR, — I wrote your Excellency some time past respecting the matter of Col° Dircks, &c., since which we have been honored with your favor of the 25^th^ ult°, and can't but again lament your distresses occasioned by the sickness and death of the late Commissary General, and the melancholy of your mind in consequence of that event. I sincerely pray that under your present heavy and grievous affliction you may be comforted with the consolations of God, which are neither few nor small, and that while you are deprived of such tender connections and dear enjoyments in life, you may at the same time rejoice in the GOD of your salvation.

I am very glad to hear Col° Dyer is coming on, not

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only on account of the late Commissary's affairs, but also of the public, and shall be happy to resign my seat in Congress to his superior abilities and experience, and especially at such a time as the present, when every effort of the greatest abilities is necessary to be exerted in behalf of the suffering public, for the manner of our conducting, or rather delaying business in Congress gives me the most sensible uneasiness. I should think it my duty to give your Excellency a particular account of our proceedings had not M^r^ Hosmer done me the honor of presenting me his letter of the 31^st^ ult^o^, which had my full approbation, and which states that matter with such justice as to supercede the necessity of any observations from me upon the disagreeable subject, other than most sincerely to lament the disagreeable truths it contains. It is a most unwelcome consideration, and what fills my mind with the deepest anxiety and concern, that the conduct of any of the members of Congress should be such as to create in my mind strong suspicions of their political and moral virtue. But these things lead me more and more to remove my confidence from man, and to comfort myself with that consideration that none of the wicked machinations of the deceitful and vile shall ever be able to defeat the kind instructions of the DEITY.

Yesterday we began to meet twice a day, which is to continue till the first of November, — a measure this, extremely disagreeable to many members, but it has been long urged by the New England States.

We have just received intelligence by General Sullivan's letter of a battle fought at the north end of Rhode Island, in which our people kept the field, and that considerable numbers fell on both sides. We have no particulars as yet. Nothing of consequence has occurred since M^r^ Hosmer wrote; have only to add my sincere wishes that your extensive usefulness might be long continued, and that you might live to see the fruits of your

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arduous labours in the independence, freedom, and happiness of your country, and be finally admitted to the glorious rewards of the righteous.

I am, with esteem, sincerity & regard, Your Excellency's
Most obed^{t} & very hble. servant,
AND^{w} ADAMS.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

NATHANAEL GREENE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

COVENTRY, RHODE ISLAND, Septem^{r} 14th, 1778.

SIR, — The growing extravagance of the people, and the encreasing demand for forrage for the use of the public, require the interposition of legislative authority to fix some limits to the price of articles taken for the use of the army. Without this it will be impossible to furnish money to answer the people's demands, or procure forrage sufficient to subsist the public cattle. If this evil is permitted to rage, it will soon become intolerable, providing the forrage is to be furnished by contract, because people will enlarge their prices as our wants grow more pressing. Two public injuries will result from the present state of things. One is, the public funds will be found unequal to the expence, and consequently it will sap the foundation of national defence. The other is, while the people withold their forrage in hopes of a larger price our cattle must inevitably starve.

The regulating trade and commerce in general has been pretty fully proved to be impracticable, and perhaps if it could be effected it might not be found to an-

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* Nathanael Greene, one of the ablest generals in the American army in the War of the Revolution, was born in Warwick, R. I., June 6, 1742, and died at Mulberry Grove, Georgia, June 19, 1786. He was appointed Quartermaster-General in March, 1778. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. ii. pp. 750–753; 2 Sparks's American Biography, vol. x; G. W. Greene's Life of Nathanael Greene. — EDS.

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swer the great purposes of society so well as that medium which is formed by the mutual wants of the buyer and seller. But a partial regulation, so far as respects the supply of the public I conceive to be absolutely necessary, and at the same time perfectly consistent with private right and the public welfare.

Pensylvania and, I think, N. Jersey adopted a similar policy, and during the army's stay there we felt the happy effects of it. I submit the matter to your Excellency's consideration and that of your Council. I should be glad of your advice and direction as to the modes and means of supplying the army with forrage.

I am, with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, hble. servant.

NATH. GREENE, *Q. M. G.*

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

SAMUEL ELIOT, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

BOSTON, 14th Sept., 1778.

HON^{D} SIR, — I have the pleasure of acquainting you of the arrival of the brig Medway at an out port; she is in a dangerous situation. I have taken the advice of the principle persons with us, and have dispatch'd Capt Gorham to take charge of her, and take out such articles as may be valuable, and order the brig into Dartmouth, New London, or any other place of safety, but not untill he has made very perticular enquiry. This gentleman has always conducted my business to approbation. We hear of the Oliver Cromwell's arriyal. I made a reserve of duck, cordage, & some paints, sheat lead & sundry other articles, not to be obtain'd with you; they shall be dld. whenever an order comes down.

I want to write upon business; but my heart is too full. It has pleased a Sovereign God to take from us,

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our dear father! * shall we weep for him? no, rather let us mourn that we have profited so little by his pious instructions. He lived beloved; he died lamented; his last moments, *to use his own words*, were his best moments. He was sensible to the last; the last he spoke, was "that gospell which I have preached enables me to meet the King of Terrors with calmness. I find death disarm'd of his sting, &c." He desir'd to be remember'd to all his friends, and then fell asleep, without a sigh or a groan.

I remain your dutifull servant,

SAM. ELIOT Jr.

Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 14th Sept., 1778. Saml Eliot, Junr, Esqr, *de* arrival of the Brig Medway. Prize. Duck & Rigging for O. Cromwell. Death of Doct Eliot. Recd 19th inst.

SAMUEL ELIOT, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(*Publick Service*) *His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esqr, Lebanon in Connecticut. Favd by Cap Hyde, who is desir'd to forward it p Post from Providence.*

BOSTON, 2d Octr, 1778.

HONp SIR, — I have receiv'd a letter from Thos Fanning, Esqr, at Norwich, inclosing a vote of Council, for having the stores belonging to the State sent forward for the use of the Oliver Cromwell. Agreeable thereto I sent all the cordage & duck, and one roll sheet lead, and sundry useful small stores. I have waited on the navy board, and shall be able to negotiate an exchange of bread for all that is merchantable. I am sorry to say a great part is damag'd; the brig Medway took in a vast quantity of water in the hurricane. As soon as I have accomplishd the exchange I will duly notify Mr Fanning. I beg leave to mention, that at present I believe I could exchange the 45 bls. beef & 22 bls. pork, now remaining

* Rev. Andrew Eliot, D.D., minister of the New North Church, Boston, died Sept. 13, 1778, the day before this letter was written. — EDS.

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in my hands, for a like quantity, of equal goodness, in Connecticut; this, if the State have not got a quantity in store, wou'd be much the safest method, and would save the State a great expence.

It is with great pleasure I am able to inform your Excellency, that the Kepple & Cyrus prizes turn out so well as not only to pay the moneys advanc'd for the Defence and Cromwell, but that I shall be able to remit a very large sum to the State. I am at a loss in what manner to remit the money, shou'd the Council draw on me I must desire the bills may be at 6 or 10 days sight; the cash I have by me and the sum due on the 10th will make up £5,000, which I should be glad to remit; as fast as the money comes into my hands, I will give due notice, unless it will be more agreeable that I should take drafts here on Connecticut, Philadelphia, or else where.

I am your dutiful sert,

Govr Trumbull. Sam. Eliot, Jr.

Indorsed: Octo 2nd, 1778. Saml Elliot, *de* vote of the Govr & Council of Safety sent him, has complied therewith, &c.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HENRY LAURENS.

Lebanon, 5th Octo, 1778.

Dear Sir, — With great sincerity and satisfaction I beg leave to congratulate your Excellency on the happy escape from danger of your son in the late attempt on Rhode Island, and on the honor he has very justly obtained from the share he bore in the events of that expedition, particularly in the memorable battle fought on that island.

With much gratitude to the disposer of events I also acknowledge the safety of *my* youngest son, who voluntarily, and without my approbation, shared the like dangers in the same expedition.

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I have none of your private favors to acknowledge, though I have had my expectations. Suffer me to ask your particular influence on the subject of my representation to Congress. An unnoticed representation of like nature from my son was very grievous to him: it could not be *pleasing* to me. I hope this will not meet the like delay. Were it not that your own good sense will dictate to you, and your goodness will prompt you to make use of many considerations on this head, I could suggest a thousand things which might be said on the score of that justice which I have fondly thought was due to the merits of my son, who, I think, has deserved honorably of the public for his public services, notwithstanding all the hard treatment which he experienced. The same justice which was his due while alive is now due to his relict and heirs. Your influence in this determination will be peculiarly grateful to me.

With much consideration, respect, and esteem, I am,

Your Excellency's most humble servant,

JONTH TRUMBULL.

M^{r} President LAURENS.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO THE DELEGATES FROM CONNECTICUT.

LEBANON, 5th Oct^{o}, 1778.

SIR, — By the same conveyance with this is gone my representation and letter to the President and Congress respecting the concerns of my deceased son as late Commissary General; the purport you will see from the application to Congress. I think it reasonable that justice should be done the relict and heirs of the deceased upon the same principles of at least equal generosity and liberality as are allowed to the present commissaries of purchases and issues, whose task, by the path having been in great measure traced, explored, and ascertained by the

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first Commissary General, has by that means become in a manner easy and familiar to them, through the care, the labour, the attention, industry, and application of him who may perhaps be said to have lost his life in the arduous pursuit.

I must beg your attention to this object that it may be speedily determined. It was always grievous to my son that Congress were never pleased to take up the matter on his own representation. I trust it will not now be longer delayed, as further delay may prove peculiarly detrimental to the settlement of his accounts and his estate, which will be easiest effected by early attention.

By letter of 29th August from Messrs Adams and Hosmer I am informed that Congress are employed on the subject of finances and the organizing a board of treasury. These are great and weighty objects, and need the fullest consideration. I wish they may be as early determined as their great importance and the deepest consideration will permit. Many and weighty are the matters which press still for consideration. I wish, however, that it did not seem that some essential things appear to be protracted to a greater length than either their nature, the importance of the objects, the necessary time for consideration, or the public expectation would deem necessary. I would fondly hope that no time is lost which might be employed in precious deliberation, that no unnecessary, unmeasurable, or untoward circumstances conspire to create delays. Our situation, although the dawn of happier days seems to lighten upon us, is yet in my apprehension very critical. Many great and serious points remain to be settled. I would hope no leaven of uneasiness between States, disunion, or opposition of North to South, or South to North, is creeping into Congress to prevent the completion, the speedy completion, of those matters which are of essential moment to the duration of our union and uninterrupted happiness.

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In all your deliberations I hope it may be a fixed principle that virtue alone can be the foundation, that virtue alone can be the support of any government.

I am, with esteem & respect, gentlemen,

Your most humble servant.

Hon^ble^ Delegates from Connecticut. JON^TH^ TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SAMUEL ADAMS.*

LEBANON, Oct^o^ 5^th^, 1778.

SIR, — The late heavy loss of my eldest son, the late Commissary General, by death, has not only devolved upon me much grief and sorrow, but will unavoidably plunge me into a concern for settlement of his public accounts, thereby to introduce a settlement of his private estate. As one step towards effecting this I have sent the President a letter containing a representation to Congress from me respecting the public concern of the deceased. For the purport thereof I beg leave to refer you to the President's communication to Congress. At the same time I take the liberty to beg your particular influence in the matter, that it may be brought to a speedy determination, without that tedious delay which my son thought he had great reason to complain of, from his own representation to Congress, which was a long time before his death presented to Congress, and which seemed not to be noticed by them. Justice was certainly due to him; the same is now due to his relict and heirs. I want only justice to take place, and that I think is not hard to be ascertained, when a comparison is made between his services for the public in an early period

* Born in Boston Sept. 27, 1722, graduated at Harvard College in 1740, and died in Boston Oct. 2, 1803. He was a delegate in Congress from Massachusetts from 1774 to 1782 His life, character, and public services are too well known to need other mention here. — EDS.

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before the business was reduced to any settled plan, and the duty of the present Commissaries General of purchases and issues whose path may be now said to be by his labour, toil, and assiduity made easy and familiar.

I forbear to suggest many thoughts which your own good sense will readily dictate. I will only add that his public accounts and private concerns need speedy attention, which cannot be closed without the intervention of Congress in such matters as are set forth in my representation. The earlier these are taken up, the easier they may be finished.

May I ask you, Sir, to communicate this to M^r^ Gary [Gerry], M^r^ Marchant, and such other members as you think proper, and to beg their influence for a speedy termination of the subject of my representation. I have wrote particularly to M^r^ Lovell.

With much consideration and regard, I am, Sir,

Your most hble. servant.

Hon^ble^ Sam^l^ Adams, Esq^r^. Jon^th^ Trumbull.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JAMES LOVELL.

Lebanon, 5^th^ Oct^o^, 1778.

Dear Sir, — By Messenger Brown I have sent a letter to the President, containing a representation from me, in behalf of the public and for his relict and heirs, upon the subject of the concerns of my son, the late Commissary General.

The long acquaintance, the intimacy, the affection which subsisted between the deceased and you, induce me to apply for your particular influence in this case. The subject of the representation you will obtain from the President's communication to Congress. The delay of Congress to do him such justice as he apprehended was his due, and upon his own representation to Congress,

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which was presented a long while before his death, and which seemed never to gain their notice or attention, was peculiarly grievous to him. This with other treatment he met with from the public, without either thanks, pay, or reward for his arduous services preyed hard upon his mind, and in a great measure encreased (if they may not be said to have produced) the disorders of body which terminated his life. The same justice is now due to his relict and heirs as was his due during life. I wish it may not be longer delayed than the nature of the subject and its full consideration require.

In my opinion justice is due to the late Commissary General upon at least as liberal and generous terms as have been allowed to the present Commissaries Generals of purchases and issues. Have not his labors, care, industry, and attention to a business which was new, the track of which, dark and untrodden before in this country, may be said to have been explored and investigated by him, been the means of rendering their duty in a manner easy and familiar to them, compared with what it must have been to one who had to practise upon the first stages of an unknown and indigested plan? Is it reasonable that others should reap the fruit of his labour and toils while his services must be unrewarded and forgotten? These considerations were grievous to him: I cannot say they are pleasing to me. I need not multiply words to you on the subject. Your own good sense, without any predilection in favor of my son, will suggest a thousand thoughts to your mind; and I doubt not your attention to the subject. A line from you, after representation made to Congress, with their sense thereon, will be very agreeable.

I am, with much respect & regard, d^{r} Sir,

Your most hble. servant.

JONTH TRUMBULL.

JAMES LOVELL, Esq^{r}, in Congress.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HENRY LAURENS.

LEBANON, 6th Oct°, 1778.

SIR, — Your two letters of the 5th and 13th of September, with the enclosures, are duly received. In mine of the 25th August mention was made of the death of my son, the late Commissary General, and my purpose to have Colonel Dyer come to Congress, and by him to send my memorial relative to my son's affairs during his services as Commissary, and allowances since his resignation to him, to his clerks and others employed in the public service. The sickness and circumstances of Col° Dyer's family hath detained him beyond our expectation.

I do now make the following memorial and representation for the benefit of the public, of the relict and heirs of my deceased son, to the Honorable Congress, which sheweth:

That my eldest son, Joseph Trumbull, very early after the battle at Lexington went into the service of the State of Connecticut, as commissary of provisions for its troops;

That Congress, on the 19th July, 1775, resolved "That Joseph Trumbull be Commissary General of stores and provisions for the army of the United States."

That he entered into this business; he had to traverse a new and untrodden way; great care and diligence was necessary for the public and his own security to form and regulate his proceedure. He employed Mr William Hoskins to be his clerk, a gentleman of ability and integrity, well acquainted with regular accounts of such sort: he continued in his employment from first to last, is best acquainted with his accounts and transactions of any person now living;

That through constant fatigue and attendance with the army in the month of October, 1775, he, the Commissary

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General, found himself unwell, retired to my family; his disorder proved a dyssentery, the common distemper of an army; his life in great danger, almost despaired of; by the blessing of Heaven he recovered; by his previous care the army was well supplied before and during his absence. Early, after his recovery, he returned; with unremitted care and industry he made ample provision for the army when before Boston; when it marched to New York he went forward, steadily attending and fulfilling the duties of his department;

That he transacted as commissary of purchases, of issues, and of supplies for the hospital. He made from time to time great and advantageous purchases by himself, and also employed suitable persons for the public service, who have large accounts open, which have not been closed for want of the ballances due to them from the public;

That the business of his department by experience became familiar, put on a good aspect; notwithstanding the great and unavoidable losses of provisions and stores from various causes, he never failed making regular and competent supplies;

That your memorialist is informed that the Commissary General laid his memorial before Congress, and prayed for a suitable consideration and reward for his services and for those in public employment in that department, on which nothing hitherto is granted;

That he continued in service untill the new regulations Congress see [saw?] fit to make by the resolves of the 10th and 16th June, 1777, took place. On these he remonstrated; he notified the impracticability of those regulations; he mentioned what alterations after so long experience he judged necessary to be made; he expected to meet encouragements rather than discouragements. He recalled the dangers and necessary consequences to the army, and although he was offered to be Commissary

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General of Purchases he declined, he resigned the whole. These things were too grievous to him; they preyed on his constitution, impaired his health to such a degree that after a long and distressing bodily indisposition, with frequent relapses, he departed this life on the 23 day of July last, to the great grief of his parents, of his relict, of his relations, and of his friends.

It is further to be observed, that after his resignation he delivered over very large quantities of salt and of other stores and provisions to the great benefit of the army. In this he met great difficulty and vexation;

That his clerk, M^r^ Hoskins, hath been employed in settlements untill the time of his death, and hath received no consideration or reward therefor since the 30^th^ of June, 1776.

I beg leave to mention relative to his accounts, that in his last account every one is sensible of the risque in receiving and paying money, which gave rise to a Commission, even when not attended with the hurry and tumult that necessarily happens in a situation like his;

That in the accounts of purchases and supplies the irregularity in the first stages will call for consideration and relaxation of the strictness afterwards required. Here the Commissary's personal knowledge is lost;

That the accounts of issues will be lengthy and tedious. Losses from the enemy, from the hurry and confusion that often happened, and various other unavoidable causes will render it impossible to be fully ascertained.

I am little apt and always unwilling to speak advantageously of myself or my children; but as after all some justice is due to one's self and to them, as well as to others, I beg leave to represent that the attachment of myself, of this son of mine, and my whole family, to the American cause and independency was always unshaken, our endeavours to promote the same unwearied. That his principles were honest and honorable, his doings in his

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department to the satisfaction of the General, of the officers, and of the army. That he had, and his relict and heirs have, a common claim to a just and reasonable reward for his services.

It is presumed that the grants and allowances lately made to the present Commissaries General of purchases and issues may be as reasonable for him, together with reasonable allowances for extra services; and that a rule be fixed for the reward of such as served the public in his department during this time.

In expectation of the readiness of the Hon^ble^ Congress to take this whole matter into their wise consideration and to pass such resolutions and grants thereon, that justice may be done to the widow and heirs of the deceased and to all the concerned, I am, with esteem & sincerity, Sir,

Your most obedient, hble. servant.

JON^TH^ TRUMBULL.

P. S. Enclosed is M^r^ Hoskins' petition. Sunday morning last I received your favor of the 26^th^ Septem^r^ ult^o^, with its enclosures p^r^ Capt. Harding.

President LAURENS.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SILAS DEANE.

LEBANON, 6^th^ Oct^o^, 1778.

SIR, — I duly received your favor of the 20^th^ August ult^o^, and have to acknowledge the receipt of two of your favors from abroad. Once when I was at Hartford your brother mentioned an opportunity for sending an answer; my engagements at that time prevented; at others not knowing an opportunity, and persuaded every intelligence I could give you possessed of from abler hands, I omitted it.

I thank you for the kind and compassionate notice you take of the death of my son — an event truly affecting

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and grievous. My duty is self-denial, patience, resignation, and humble submission to the will of Heaven. He was a dutiful and pleasant son, a generous and open friend, a sincere defender of the American cause, exerted his utmost abilities in the department alloted him. His was a new and original undertaking amongst us. The treatment he met, without thanks or reward for more than two years indefatigable labours and risque, grieved him to the heart, brought on and encreased his bodily disorders, preyed on his constitution, exhausted his spirits, wore them out, and finished his days. Mine are nearly terminated; may afflictions wean me from a fondness for life, and quicken my preparations for an exchange of worlds. The curtain is thin, yet perfectly dark, save what is revealed by the Word. We live by faith, and not by sight. We are in the latter end of the last days. The marvellous events of Providence seem to open to our view a rising empire in this western world, to enlarge our Redeemer's kingdom and to pull down the Papacy. Another, the Russian, is rising in the north quarters to subdue the Ottoman, to dry up the waters of the River Euphrates, to prepare the way for the kings of the east.

A commonwealth is the most rational and equitable form of government; it grows and flourishes where virtue is the object; it decays and sinks where luxury, the source of corruption, prevails and encreaseth.

May these States become free and independent, union and harmony be established, virtue encouraged and maintained, and peace restored and confirmed with all the world.

You seem to neglect Connecticut; I hope not her interests. I acknowledge your kind offer of a correspondence and readiness to execute orders from this State, from me or my friends.

I am, with regard & consideration, Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant.

SILAS DEAN, Esq^r. JON^TH TRUMBULL.

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ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, Oct^r 6, 1778.

SIR, — I have been absent about six weeks on the business of arranging the army, which, so far as it is accomplished, has occasioned less dissatisfaction than I feared it would. Some good officers are excluded for want of room which are recommended to Congress for such notice and provision as shall be thought reasonable. Major Wells did not apply untill the arrangement of the Connecticut officers was made, so that he could not be admitted. It is customary in other States not to fill the places of officers in captivity, but to promote them according to their rank as if present. I shall take the first opportunity to transmit to your Excellency a copy of the arrangement of the Connecticut officers.

I returned here last Wednesday evening, and Maj^r Adams being unwell set out to go home last Saturday. Col^o Dyer and M^r Elsworth are not yet arrived; I hope they are on their way, for it is of importance to have a full representation. Business goes on slow. The important matters of the currency, cloathing department, and treasury arrangement are not yet finished, though believe the last is compleated, except appointing the officers. Cloathing the army will doubtless be referred to the particular States to supply their own troops. The Continental cloathing on hand, and what may hereafter arrive, will be distributed in some just proportion.

There is a report lately made on the subject of finance, not acted upon, which I think will not be an adequate remedy for the evils. I think a reasonable time ought to be fixed for sinking all the outstanding bills, and sufficient funds by annual taxes provided for bringing them in. That would fix their credit by letting the possessors know

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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when and how they are to be redeemed, and would in some good measure do justice to the public, as the bills would be collected in at about the same value they were issued out. The first part of the time the people would obtain them at a cheap rate to pay their taxes, and they would gradually appreciate till restored to their original value. But some provision ought to be immediately made for doing justice to creditors in payment of old debts and salaries stated in lawful money. The law making the bills a tender when the same nominal sum was of equal value to lawful money was reasonable and necessary, but now is become the source of great injustice. I think lawful money should be the standard, but an equivalent in bills should be accepted in payment. The committee of commerce do make a discount in payment of sterling debts. I hope public faith will be inviolably observed in the redemption of the bills at their full value, at the period fixed for that purpose, but that will not prevent their depreciation in currency in the mean time while so great a quantity is in circulation.

We received accounts yesterday that a number of the enemy's ships were seen standing in toward Egg Harbour, supposed with intent to destroy the shipping and stores there. Some Continental troops and New Jersey militia are sent to oppose them. What their intentions are concerning leaving this country we can't yet learn. Congress have thought it necessary to continue the embargo on provisions to the last of January next. Our friends at the eastward, especially at Rhode Island, think it hard that they are deprived of getting provisions from Connecticut by the land embargo.

I am, with great respect,

Your Excellency's hble. servant,

ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

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WILLIAM TRYON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEW YORK, 7th October, 1778.

SIR, — I have a real satisfaction in transmitting to you several printed copies of the King's Commissioners' Manifesto and Proclamation. Conscious of the spirit it breathes of peace, happiness and liberty, to the whole empire, I can boldly request the favor of you to make it public through your Province and the Eastern Colonies.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedt Servt,

Governor TRUMBULL. WM TRYON, *Govr*.

Indorsed: 7th Octo, 1778. Majr General Tryon, signed Govr. *De* Comissrs Offers breathing Peace, Happiness & Liberty, recd at Lebanon with Manifesto & Proclamation, 15th inst.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO WILLIAM TRYON.*

NEW-HAVEN, 12th October, 1778.

SIR, — Your letter of the 7th instant, with its inclosures, is received.

With great propriety, the Honble British Comissioners did address the offers they were comissioned to make to the Congress of the United States of America, who are furnished with compleat authority, and from whom comunications are duly made to the respective States.

Is it not therefore really unbecoming the dignity of the King and the State those Honorable Comissioners represent, for them to seek the objects they were comissioned to pursue, by fomenting popular divisions, and partial caballs?

I am, Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant.

Honble Majr General TRYON. JONTH TRUMBULL.

* Governor Trumbull kept two copies, in his own handwriting, of this letter, and wrote in the margin of one of them against the last paragraph: "Quere, whether this paragraph be omitted." — EDS.

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EBENEZER PUNDERSON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

The Hon^ble Jon^a Trumbull, Esq^r, Gov^r of the Colony of Connecticut.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — It is well known that I have ever been firmly attach'd to Government, & that not from any party spirit but upon principle, that I have served, & still continue to serve Government conscienciously, wishing nothing more than a reasonable subjection of my countrymen to their rightfull sovereign, without the least tincture of hatred, malice, or desire of revenge of any personal affront or injury; presuming your Excellency hath no doubts of the above facts from my known charecter, I earnstly beg that you give a permit to my family, male & female, immediately to imbark in the vessel they may procure for that purpose, with their wearing apparel, bed, bedding, house furniture & servants, & a milk cow, if they have any, that they may come & live within the King's lines, that if my honoured mother shall chuse to stay where she is, that you will permit her so to do, & keep such part of our stuff & servants as she shall incline, & let M^rs Punderson with her children come with the residue. If you shall think my request of furniture, &c., unreasonable, you will give them a permit to bring such things as you shall think proper. Not doubting of your willingness to do every thing I can wish that shall be consistant with your station, I beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

EBENEZER PUNDERSON.

NEWPORT, 14^th October, 1778.

Indorsed: Oct. 14^th, 1778. Eben^r Punderson, requesting that liberty may be granted his wife & family to remove within the enemy's lines.

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* Ebenezer Punderson was born in Groton, Conn., graduated at Yale College in 1755. and died at Preston, at an advanced age, in 1809. He is designated by Sabine as a physician, and by Miss Caulkins as a school teacher, and was a sturdy Loyalist. See Sabine's American Loyalists, vol. ii. pp. 202, 203; Caulkins's History of Norwich, pp. 370, 371; Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 375, 376. — EDS.

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JOSIAH WHITNEY* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r. To be communicated to the Hon^ble the Gen^l Assembly.

To the honorable the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut now sitting at New Haven. The memorial of the Association of the County of Windham humbly sheweth.

That whereas the decision of all controversies & every event in the universe depends on the divine interposition, & it is most reasonable that intelligent beings pay a suitable & supreme regard to the Deity in all things. And taking into our most serious consideration the importance of the present glorious efforts of the United States of America, & of this State in particular, to secure & maintain our invaluable rights & liberties, in opposition to that tyrannical & bloody power that is most inhumanly exerting itself to deprive us of them. Realizing at the same time, that we have made our appeal to a Being of infinite righteousness, the God of Armies, on whose favor and blessing alone all our success is absolutely dependent. Impressed likewise with a melancholly conviction of that impious disregard to the most high God, so awfully apparent in our camps, where divine instruction & public prayers are much neglected, & the name of the Deity seldom mentioned, except in a way of levity & prophanation.

Your Memorialists therefore think it their duty, in the character they sustain, humbly to request your Honors,

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* Rev. Josiah Whitney was born in Plainfield, Conn., August 11, 1731, graduated at Yale College in 1752, and settled as a minister in that part of Pomfret, Conn., now the town of Brooklyn, in 1756. There he remained until his death Oct. 20, 1824. "His pastorate of over 68 years had been the longest known in the annals of the Congregational Churches of Connecticut, down to that date." From Sept., 1787, to Sept., 1810, he was a member of the Corporation of Yale College. See Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Yale College, vol. ii. pp. 297–300. — EDS.

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to make some further provision than has already been made, to oppose the threatening torrent of these growing evils. Particularly with regard to the militia of this State, many of which have been & may yet be frequently called to take the field against the common enemy.

We humbly request of your Honors to provide, as in your wisdom shall appear best, that such of our brethren and fellow citizens, as have been or may be thus detached, may not be destitute of the most able instructors in righteousness, who may faithfully "*teach them the manner of the God of our fathers*," & lead them daily in those duties of social & public worship which are so fit & reasonable for a people called after his sacred name.

Also that those of our order, who are or may be called to attend their brethren, in this most important work, may be placed in such circumstances by your Honors as may capacitate them, in the best manner, to suppress that abounding wickedness & profaneness in the camps, which more threatens our ruin than all the powers of earth, if combined against us, might do.

We humbly apprehend that nothing of greater importance than what we now allude to, can claim the attention of the civil guardians of liberty & virtue. Therefore hope & expect, from the wisdom & piety of our honorable General Assembly, that effectual measures will be concerted, reletive to the premises.

And thus your memorialists shall ever pray.

Signed in the name & by the order of the Association.

JOSIAH WHITNEY, *Scribe.*

Dated at MANSFIELD, Oct^{r} 14th, 1778.

Indorsed: 14 Oct^{o}, 1778. Rev^{d} Association of Ministers of the Gospel in Windham County to encourage Religion and discountenance Vice. That chaplains be appointed to our Militia when in Camp, &c. Rec^{d} 20 ins^{t} vespere.

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ROGER SHERMAN AND OLIVER ELLSWORTH* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.†

PHILADELPHIA, Oct^{o} 15th, 1778.

SIR, — We were honored with your Excellency's letter of the 5th instant. Your letter to Congress and the memorial accompanying it are referred to Mess^{rs} R. H. Lee, Samuel Adams, Josiah Bartlet, and Oliver Elsworth, who have not yet made report; hope such determination will be made thereon as will be reasonable and satisfactory, of which we will give your Excellency the earliest notice by the post. The affair of finance is yet unfinished; the arrangement of the board of treasury is determined on, but the officers are not yet appointed. To-morrow is assigned for their nomination. The members of Congress are united in the great object of securing the liberties and independence of the States, but are sometimes divided in opinion about particular measures.

The Assembly of New Jersey in their late session did not ratify the Confederation; nor has it been done by Maryland and Delaware States. These and some other of the States are dissatisfied that the western ungranted lands should be claimed by particular States, which, they think, ought to be the common interest of the United States, they being defended at the common expense. They further say that if some provision is not now made for securing lands for the troops who serve during the

* Oliver Ellsworth was born in Windsor, Conn., April 29, 1745, graduated at Princeton College in 1766, and died in his native town Nov. 26, 1807. He was one of the ablest and most distinguished men that Connecticut has given to the service of the country. From 1777 to 1784 he was a delegate to the Continental Congress. In 1787 he was one of the most influential members of the Convention which framed the Federal Constitution. From 1789 to 1795 he was a member of the United States Senate. From 1796 to 1799 he was Chief Justice of the United States. In 1800 he was one of the Commissioners sent to Paris by President Adams to negotiate a treaty with France. See Lanman's Biographical Annals, pp. 136, 487; Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. ii. pp. 335, 336; Flanders's Lives of the Chief Justices, vol. ii. pp. 55-276. — EDS.

† Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book, where the name is spelled Elsworth. — EDS.

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war, they shall have to pay large sums to the States who claim the vacant lands to supply their quota of the troops.

Perhaps the Assembly of Connecticut should resolve to make grants to their own troops, and those raised by the States of Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, in the lands south of Lake Erie and west of the lands in controversy with Pensylvania, free of any purchase money or quit-rents to the government of Connecticut. It might be satisfactory to those States and be no damage to the State of Connecticut. A tract of thirty miles east and west across the State would be sufficient for the purpose, and being settled under good regulations would enhance the value of the rest. These could not be claimed as crown lands, both the fee and jurisdiction having been granted to the Governor and Company of Connecticut.

We are, Sir, with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient and
most humble servants,

ROGER SHERMAN.
OLIVER ELSWORTH.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

SILAS DEANE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, Oct^o 20^th^, 1778.

SIR, — I received your favor of the 6^th^ instant. The improvement you make of losses and misfortunes is such as true piety will ever dictate and reason approve. The treatment your son met with must have been affecting to you as well as to him. I feel for you in that situation, and the more forcibly from having at this instant similar attempts made to treat me in a still more unworthy and ungrateful manner. Conscious of the integrity of my con-

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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duct and of the disinterested and unremitted zeal with which I laboured for my country, and a becoming sense of the important services I have rendered these States, I support myself calmly against the cabals of a junto of men who are most assiduously laborious to injure me. I have now waited three months for an audience, and to learn why the Congress superceded and recalled me; sorry I am to inform you I have waited in vain, having only had two opportunities of speaking to Congress. The last was in August, now two months since. These delays are not only injurious to my interest as well as to the public, they are mortifying and dishonorable. The desire I have to serve my country has prevented my leaving not only Congress but the continent before this. My patience exhausted, I wait only for the arrival of my carriage and horses, when after visiting a few friends I shall go for Europe, to settle the affairs I have been concerned in, public as well as private, after which I shall retire to have leisure to attend to one of the chief of duties, and of pleasures, in life, the education of my son, and the enjoyment of the society of a few friends.

It hurts me, Sir, to have you think I neglect Connecticut. I shall never forget or neglect my native State; I have ever had even a partiality in favor of the New England States, and Connecticut in particular. It has like every government and character in the world its foibles, and which no freeman ought to be witheld from animadverting upon, if done in proper time and manner. I will confess to you I was hurt at the manner in which I was dismissed from being a Delegate, but at the same time assure you I never harboured a disgustful or rancourous thought on the occasion. I adopted the advice of the poet, and have most religiously lived up to it ever since, having been

> "To its faults a little blind,
> And to its virtues very kind,"

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so much so that I have very often been rallied by the French Ministry, by his Excellency Mons^r^ Gerard in particular, as a perfect enthusiast, when I spoke to them of the spirit, firmness, and perseverance of my countrymen in New England, especially in Connecticut. I designed after the treaty was executed to have settled my affairs as soon as possible, and retired from all future connections with public concerns. I thought that the treaty executed, I was entitled as of right to some repose; full of this resolution I was surprised with an order from Congress for my immediate recall, and that I should lose no time in returning, to give them an account of the state of affairs in Europe. I had never received, from my leaving America (which was two years before) the least intimation that any part of my conduct had been disagreeable to Congress, and though nothing was directly intimated in this letter or order, yet the very recall was an implied disapprobation. I found all my friends shocked and surprised at this resolution of Congress. The Court was alarmed, apprehending that this proceeding of Congress might arise from the disapprobation of the part I had acted; and the part I had acted was too well known and approved of by them not to cause very disagreeable inferences from this apparent disposition of Congress. Conscious that I had more than once before not only releived, but, I may say without vanity, saved my country, that the treaty had been brought forward and expedited, principally at least by my exertions, and from the confidence which the Court of France had at all times reposed in me, I resolved instead of giving way to those feelings which such treatment must naturally gave rise and force to, I set myself to take advantage of the occurrence for rendering the United States the most essential and greatest possible service. I applied to the Ministers, and obtained the declaration of the treaty to be made to the Court of London, and the Toulon fleet to be sent out to

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America. That these great events were brought about by my sole negotiation is a fact well known in France. Our design was to have taken Lord Howe's whole fleet in the Delaware, and of course the army must have fell, and the war might, perhaps, have been finished at a blow. To execute this the fleet sailed the beginning of April, and of course I was obliged to set out (as I had previously promised to accompany Mons^r^ Gerard) without being able to make any settlement of my affairs, for the strictest secrecy being enjoined, I came away as if making a journey into the country. Unfortunately the fleet arrived seven days after Lord Howe had left the river, which circumstance prevented the whole force of our enemy falling into our hands: what has happened since in that line you are well acquainted with. I repaired immediately to Congress in company with Mons^r^ Gerard, the French minister, who had long been my intimate friend, and who on the part of his Court had been intrusted with the negotiation. I waited more than a month before I was permitted to speak to Congress. I then delivered letters, of which I enclose copies,* and gave them a general account of my conduct abroad. I was heard twice, after which, without their coming to any resolutions, I have met with the most mortifying, I may add, distressing delays. To my repeated applications to be heard, they have scarcely condescended even to make one word of reply. This conduct has at last forced me to resolve, tho' with y^e^ utmost reluctance, to appeal to my countrymen at large from those whose delay of justice is more fatal than a denial. Sensible of the truly alarming situation of our public affairs, I am extremely averse to lay my

* Following the copy of this letter in Governor Trumbull's Letter Book are a copy of a letter in French from the Comte de Vergennes to the President of Congress, dated March 25, 1778, with a translation; copy of a letter in French from Vergennes to Mr. Deane, dated March 26, 1778, also with a translation; and a letter from Dr. Franklin to the President of Congress. These letters are printed in the Collections of the New York Historical Society for 1887, pp. 434–436, 445. — Eds.

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complaints before the world; yet justice to myself will at least force me to lay before my countrymen an account of my services abroad, of the services I rendered them, of the estimation I was held in, and the reputation I enjoyed in France, after which they will be able to judge what I am, or am not, entitled to. I can but feel for the dangerous situation these States are in, from the dilatory, indecisive manner of doing the great business of the public, and the deranged state of our finances, hourly approaching a crisis, ruinous and disgraceful to public as well as private character and fortune, from the increase of our paper and the consequent rise of every necessary for the support of the war. No man has a higher veneration for the Congress of these United States than I have; no one has done more towards securing their independence than I have done; surely I am entitled to speak freely; it is my duty as well as my right. I find, Sir, from the long continuance of certain members of Congress, parties have been formed, jealousies fomented, and private emoluments for brothers, friends, &c., made a great and principal object with some who, by long and assiduous attention, are become skilful in such kind of management. A triumvirate may be as dangerous to the United States as it once was to Rome, and the assassination of the characters of those who have served faithfully their country is no less horrid than a proscription of their persons. Our public debt is increasing like a rolling snowball, and the loss or waste of millions in different departments by neglect and inattention is as fatal as if we had a CÆSAR, a POMPEY, or a CRASSUS dissipating the same in pleasures or corruption. Our public debt is now at about ninety-five millions of dollars, fifty millions of which has been contracted since the first of last March. At this rate (and it does not lessen, nor is it likely to), what must be our debt by the first of next March? I have only to say that when our public credit comes to break, it will not be the

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bursting of a bubble, but of a bomb, which will kindle combustibles already gathering in every quarter, and spread mischief far and wide. If you, Sir, are not already made acquainted with the state of our affairs, I can no way shew my regard for and attention to Connecticut better than by laying this before them. If you are, it is perhaps unnecessary, but it will at least shew my zeal for the cause of my country.

Nothing but a foreign loan, and that instantly made, can prevent evils, which I tremble when I look forward to. I have long since been of this opinion, and very early, even before the arrival of Doctor Franklin in France, I set forward a negotiation for one. I formed a correspondence in Holland, and had brought it to such a forwardness that I was about to set out to compleat it when my recall arrived. I considered it as the most important service I could perform, and, well assured it was then in my power, I determined before I quitted the public employ to effect it. On my arrival here I informed Congress of my design, and the important light in which I viewed it, but to this moment nothing has been done. I will not trust myself any further on a subject which weighs down my spirits, but will hint at a remedy, which I am happy to know is still at hand. It is the virtue of the people, who ought to be well informed how their public affairs are conducted. A more numerous representation is necessary in Congress; a rotation ought to take place without evasion or exception. This would prevent the forming connections and parties. An ordinance, however self-denying an one it may be, ought to pass, that no member of Congress, during his being a member, or within twelve months after, accept or enjoy any office of trust and profit, of honor or emolument of any kind, under the United States. An act like this will prevent many grievances now complained of. I find but few persons now in Congress who belonged to it when I left America; the rest have retired to differ-

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ent employments, and the house is scarce ever composed of the same members for two weeks successively. Not one half the members are now here who were present when I first arrived, and not a day happens but some one leaves his seat to go and attend his private affairs for a few days or weeks, during which he is sometimes relieved by another, and sometimes not, tho' the State he belongs to is, perhaps, not represented during his absence, which is often the case, and by this means it unavoidably happens frequently that one man hears a cause, and another must judge, or it is not judged by a full representation. Permit me to recommend that the Delegates of Connecticut, as well as others, transmit regularly an account of their foreign negotiations and treaties to the Assembly or Assemblies to which they belong, as also an exact state of the public finances and expenditures, as well as of the ways and means proposed for supplies. The observations I have made are, I know, well founded, and what I have taken the liberty to recommend is well meant; they come from one who never can be otherways than wholly and most ardently devoted to the service of his country, and though he meet no other reward, the consciousness of having always sincerely aimed to serve its most essential interests, and of having been, at least at times, successful, will always be an ample and abiding one, which neither the accidents of time, nor the envy and malice of enemies can deprive of.

I have wrote, as you see (*cœur overt*) or open hearted to you, and will not after wearying you with so long a letter tire you at the close of it with an ill-timed apology, but assure you I am in every situation, with the most sincere esteem and attachment,

Your Excellency's most obedient
and very humble servant.

SILAS DEANE.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

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ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, Oct^{o} 27th, 1778.

SIR, — The great affairs of finance and the cloathing department are yet unfinished. The delay of these important matters gives me great anxiety. I have used my utmost endeavours to forward them. I wish another Delegate might be immediately sent from Connecticut; was in hopes Col^{o} Dyer would have come before now. The committee appointed to consider your Excellency's letter respecting the late Commissary Trumbull's affairs have not yet made report, tho' I understand they are ready when Congress can receive it. I don't know what their report will be. The affair of the currency is to be further considered to-day. The members in general seem to be at a loss what can be done to restore its credit. The plan that appears to me most probable to be adopted is to recommend to the legislatures of the several States immediately to pass acts to raise by taxes about five or six million dollars annually for eighteen or twenty years, as a sinking fund sufficient for the redemption of all the bills and Loan Office certificates, to take out of currency about fifty million dollars by loan, to lay a tax of about twelve or thirteen million dollars for the expence of the next year; and if further emissions are necessary that additional funds be provided for sinking them within the time limited for sinking those that are now outstanding, so that the possessors of the bills and lenders of money be able to make a just estimate of the value of their securities. A note for £100 on compound interest, payable at the expiration of twenty years, would be equal to one for £321 for the same term without interest. If the bills of public credit, so far as they exceed a sufficient quantity for a medium of trade, are to be considered only

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as securities for money without interest, rebating the compound interest for the time before they are redeemable will determine their present value, and they will gradually appreciate as the time of their redemption approaches. Enclosed is a computation of the annual increase of £100 for twenty-one years on compound interest.

I wish to be favored with your Excellency's opinion on the best mode of establishing the credit of the currency. I expect that it will be referred to the several States to clothe their quotas of the army for the future, and that the Continental cloathing on hand and which may be imported in consequence of orders already given will be divided to the several States in some just proportion.

There has been a late embarkation of troops at New York, but we don't yet learn their destination. We hear they are leaving Staten Island. Some think they are about to abandon New York and leave the country: others conjecture they will make an attack on Boston, and attempt to destroy the French fleet.

We have no late advices from Europe; no letter from M^r^ John Adams in France has been received of later date than last May.

I am, with the greatest respect & esteem,

Your Excellency's obedient, hble. servant,

ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Gov^r^ TRUMBULL.

MEMORIAL OF THE SELECTMEN OF PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS.

To his Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r^, Captain General, Governor & Commander in Chief in & over the State of Connecticut, & the Honorable the Council of said State.

This Memorial of the subscribers, Selectmen of the Town of Plimouth, in the State of the Massachusetts-Bay,

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humbly sheweth, that your Petitioners, since the present war, have for some years been deprived of their usual method of procuring provisions, especially bread-corn, and being so circumstanced have, once & again, petitioned your Excellency & Honours for relief, our requests having in time past been favorably recieved. And being at this time in circumstances more distressing than ever, we find ourselves in behalf of our Town obliged once more to trouble you with our distresses, and beg you will grant us some relief. Viz., our friends Messrs Davis & Spooner, merchants in this Town, have loaded a little schooner of about twenty tons, with choice good rock salt, liver oyl, codfish, rum, &c. (agreeable to the Schedule hereunto annexed), for the express purpose of procuring in your State grain, such as wheat, Indian corn & rye, also flour, &c., for the supply of the inhabitants of this Town, it being so scarce here as that there is not, in our opinion, half a bushel of bread corn of any kind to a family, and none to be had in the neighboring towns as usual in years past, the crops being cut short greatly by the drougth and an unusual storm. We therefore pray your Excellency and Honours, to take our request into serious consideration and grant us such relief & supplies, to be brought out of your State, as to you shall seem proper, the embargo notwithstanding. The master of their vessell, Mr Ephraim Bartlett, if present, or their clerk, Mr Thomas Davis, Junr, who will present this Memorial, will be able to inform your Excellency and Honours of the distresses of our Town (and the danger of their increasing to desperation the ensuing winter, if not relieved) in a more particular manner than your Memorialists can herein describe. Relying on your compassionate, humane disposition towards the distressed in general, and those of a sister State in particular, that you will give us all needfull relief, so far as you in your wisdom think proper,

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beg leave to subscribe ourselves your Excellency's & Honours'

Most obedient, very humble servᵗˢ.

JAMES DREW.
THOMAS NICOLSON. Wᵐ CROMBIE.
THEO: COTTON.
ISAAC SYMMES.

PLIMOUTH, October 28th, 1778.

WILLIAM HEATH* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, BOSTON, 2 Novʳ, 1778.

SIR, — I did myself the honor to write your Excellency on the 28th ultº that the Troops of Convention would, if possible, begin their march for Charlotteville in Virginia on Wednesday morning next; but finding it impracticable I am obliged to defer it until Saturday morning, when, I hope, every thing will be in readiness. An express will go forward to your Excellency on the morning the troops begin to move. Finding the Germans rather unwieldy in two divisions, I have given orders to have them march in three divisions.

The troops are escorted by a guard of about 430 men, which, I apprehend, will be sufficient until they reach Connecticutt. Your Excellency will then order such escort as you may think proper; perhaps as they approach Hudson's River a stronger escort will be needful.

An Assᵗ Quʳ Master & Commissary will attend the troops from hence to the borders of Connecticutt, and I

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* William Heath was born in Roxbury, Mass., March 7, 1737, was made a provincial Brigadier-General in Dec., 1774, served with credit through the War of the Revolution, having command of the Eastern Department from 1777 to June, 1779, and died in his native town Jan. 24, 1814. (See Appleton's Cyclopædia, vol. iii. p. 154.) Twenty-six volumes of his official and other letters were given to the Historical Society by the late Amos A. Lawrence in 1859. (See Proceedings, vol. iv. pp. 287–308, also 5 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. iv.) For an exhaustive paper on the treatment of the Convention Troops, by the late Charles Deane, see Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, Oct., 1877. — EDS.

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would request your Excellency to call upon those who are fixed in the State of Connecticutt, to attend and furnish the necessary supplies through your State, unless your Excellency should think proper to adopt some other mode.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

W. HEATH.

P. S. Upwards of 120 teams will be necessary for the baggage.

His Excy Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 2nd Novr, 1778. Majr General Heath, *de* March of the Convention Troops.

WILLIAM HEATH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, BOSTON, Nov. 3d, 1778.

SIR, — Since I had the honor to write you on yesterday, I have received the honor of yours of the 28 ultº.

I have not the direction of the route of the troops of the Convention, to Virginia, as your Excellency will observe by the paragraph of his Excellency General Washington's letter to me of 21 ultimo, on that subject, which I do myself the honor to enclose, any further than the border of the State of Connecticut.

I am exceedingly sorry to hear of the badness of the roads & scarcity of forage on the route through the State of Connecticut, but, as I am inform'd, the roads are equally as bad or worse through the County of Berkshire. I am also informd, that there are many disaffected persons on that route, and as every preperation is made here for the troops going by the way of Enfield, yº several officers who are to have the charge of them gone on to Rutland to take the command & execute their orders, I

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do not see how an alteration can be made without much embarrassment and delay.

I am sorry that your Excellency should have any trouble or difficulty on this occasion; but I do not know a gentleman whose ability can better devise means to surmount them, & I am confident you will allow that I have already had my full share. I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient, hble. servt.

W. HEATH.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 3 Novr, 1778. Majr General Heath, *de* Convention Troops, enclosed wth the 2nd Novr.

HENRY LAURENS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, 10th Novr, 1778.

DEAR SIR, — I entreat you will not blame me for the long delinquency on my part in our correspondence. Permit me to assure you, Sir, my silence originated in a sympathy arising from my particular love and regard for you; your kindness and your knowledge of business will supply an apology for the rest.

I have now my eye on your favor of the 5th October. I have learned enough of the services of our late friend in his office of Commissary to know that the public are much indebted to him, and you may rely on me, Sir, for doing every thing in my power to obtain suitable acknowledgements for the benefit of his family. You have no doubt been informed by Mr Elsworth that a report had been lately made on your representation to Congress, that exceptions were urged to certain parts, and that therefore the whole was recommitted. The best influence on that occasion was to assure my friends who were unacquainted with the merits of the late Mr Joseph

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Trumbull, that he had been one of the best servants of Congress, that I was persuaded had he been continued in the office of Commissary upon his own terms the public would have saved five millions of dollars or more, and many hundreds of soldiers. To prove this to the satisfaction of every reasonable person will not be difficult to me. It requires only a retrospect to the circumstances of our army at Valley Forge during the last winter, and to the amazing advance of every species of provision immediately after the stores which he had amassed were consumed.

I cannot on this occasion bound myself by five millions; the want of forethought and industry in his successor occasioned an advance of the price of provision, and every other article kept pace with that. The contrast of these officers demonstrates the merit of the former. Hence, Sir, your requisitions and expectations on behalf of the surviving family do not appear to me to be ill grounded; nor do I believe there would be any great opposition, provided the accounts were adjusted, or adjusted so far as circumstances will admit of. I shall make an opportunity to-day for conversing with M^r^ Elsworth on this subject, and do myself the honor of writing to you again soon.

I perceive, Sir, we were in equal danger on the 28 August, and that we have each of us particular cause for thankfulness for the escape of our children from dangers to which their love of their country had exposed them. My own inform me what were *your* feelings while the event of that day remained unknown to us, and I am persuaded we have both learned in all cases, under the severest pangs arising from apprehensions, such as I confess I felt, on that occasion, and in deep distress from real misfortunes, to say, — "Thy will be done."

11^th^. I have conversed with M^r^ Elsworth, who informs me the committee have reconsidered their late report,

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and are prepared to deliver another report to the house. I hope this will be done to-morrow, and that the issue will afford you satisfaction.

Congress seem to be now in earnest to proceed upon measures for realizing and appreciating our paper money. We may make of this a fine-spun theorem, but unless we strike at the root, the cause of our immense emissions, the peculation of great public officers, the practice of monopolizers, &c., &c., we may drudge on. The evil will remain, and our country will be reduced systematically to destruction. In a word, Sir, that patriotism which we affected to say had led us into the present contest is out of fashion, and unless we speedily revive it, we shall experience a violent convulsion which will go near to ruin us, and which will at last bring us into universal disgrace. I lament the prospect.

Believe me to be, dear Sir,

With the highest respect & esteem,

Your obliged and ob^{t}, hble. servant.

HENRY LAURENS.

P. S. I beg my compliments to M^{r} Jonth Trumbull, jun^{r}. The treasury, I am told, have informed him of his appointment to the Comptrollership, unanimously elected. Salary 4,000 dollars p^{r} annum.

The Hon^{ble} Gov^{r} TRUMBULL, Connecticut.

ROGER SHERMAN AND OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, Nov^{r} 10th, 1778.

SIR, — We are honored with your Excellency's letter of the 2nd inst. by messenger Brown.

The treasury arrangement we herewith transmit your

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Excellency, and have the pleasure to inform that the choice of Col° Trumbull to the head of it was unanimous.

The equally alarming and embarrassed subject of finances is yet under consideration. Congress we trust, however, are nearly ripe for resolutions respecting them, which may be salutary, if not decisive. A foreign loan, how eligible soever, in our present circumstances, we have yet no assurance can be obtained, and from the present warlike appearances in Europe have less reason than heretofore to expect it. Establishing a fund by taxes for sinking in process of time the capital debt, and by taxes and an internal loan taking out of circulation some of the past emissions to make way for future ones, is all, therefore, we are certain at present of being able to do. A rapid appreciation is not from hence to be expected, nor perhaps wished for.

The committee on your Excellency's letter of the 8th of October reported in favor of a commission to be allowed of half p^r^ cent. This mode of allowance some members objected to, as having been found pernicious and improper in their opinion to receive the farther countenance of Congress in any case whatever, though they wished ample justice to be done in this case, and seemed fully sensible it had not been heretofore.

The letter, on motion, was recommitted to the same committee, who wait a favorable opportunity of reporting again in favor of a gross sum, which they hope will be accepted and do justice. The fate of their second report your Excellency will be informed of the earliest opportunity.

Congress have no late foreign intelligence. A letter from Commissary Loring at N. York received this day promises immediately to send out the officers now due to us, and proposes the exchange of the remaining ballance of our officers in their hands for their privates in ours, and that commissioners be appointed to meet and

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adjust the matter, and settle a full & compleat exchange as soon as can be done.

We are, Sir, with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servants.

ROGER SHERMAN.
OLIVER ELSWORTH.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

JACOB GERRISH* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

RUTLAND, Nov^r 10^th^, 1778.

HON^D SIR, — I am directed by the Hon^ble Major General Heath to march the troops of y^e Convention of Saratoga, both Brittish & German, from Rutland and Cambridge to Enfield in Connecticut; the Germans began their march yesterday, the Brittish begin their march this morning; the Brittish & Germans march in three divisions each, they move successively, a day's march preserved between each division. I shall arrive att Enfield with the first division Brittish on Fryday next. I am directed to send your Excellency notice the morning the first division march^d from Rutland, and on my arrival att Enfield to deliver them to your Excellency's order, as soon as the several divisions arrive.

And am, Sir, with all respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient, hum^ble serv^t.

JACOB GERRISH,
Commanding officer of y^e Guards in y^e State of Massachusetts Bay.

To his Excellency G. TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Novem^r 10^th^, 1778. Jacob Gerrish, *de* March of the Convention Troops.

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* Colonel Jacob Gerrish of Newbury was captain of a company which marched to Cambridge immediately after the battle of Lexington. He served nearly to the end of the War, and died in 1817, at the age of seventy-seven. See Allen's Biographical Dictionary, p. 378; Mass. Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War, vol. vi. p. 367. — EDS.

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COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

(Circular.) IN COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.
PHILADELPHIA, 11th Novr, 1778.

SIR, — The dangerous practices of engrossers have encreased so rapidly with the public distresses & have so accumulated them that every friend to this country, or even to humanity, cannot but wish to see some remedy to an evil which threatens the existence, not only of the several States, but of the poorer part of the individuals which compose them. We are fully sensible that this disease should be treated with a cautious and with a delicate hand. But at the same time we confide in the wisdom of your Legislature for the delicacy and caution. We do not pretend to mark out the means which they should adopt, but the confidence reposed in us by Congress demands that we should at least hint what, in our idea, may conduce to this valuable purpose.

The articles necessary for the consumption of the army are easily designated, and we trust there will not be much difficulty in distinguishing between the dealer in a [or?] manufacturer of those articles and the engrosser, or as he would call himself the speculator. These two objects being accomplished, it surely cannot be deemed inconsistent with policy or justice that he should be obliged to part with them to the public. The process necessary for this purpose must depend on the civil institutions, which may have been respectively adopted, but it should be as short and as simple as is consistent with the Constitution of the State. One thing more is necessary to complete the system, namely, the price. If this is such as to leave the speculator his profits, nothing more is operated by the law than merely to sanctify his unrighteous gains. If the price be fixed by law the efforts now

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making to render our money valuable (and which we doubt not your Legislature will assist by heavy taxes) will only tend to realize what he hath already accumulated. Perhaps a power lodged somewhere to fix the price monthly by the name of assize, and a deduction from it of about twenty p^r^ cent on commodities in the hands of engrossers, would be most effectual. This, however, and every thing else we have mentioned, is submitted to your wise consideration.

We have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servants.

NATH. SCUDDER.
GOUV^R^ MORRIS.
W^M^ WHIPPLE.

Gov^r^ of Connecticut.

COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

(Circular.)

IN COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.
PHILADELPHIA, 11^th^ Nov^r^, 1778.

SIR, — The great and increasing difficulties in the Quarter Master and Commissary General Departments have induced Congress to adopt the resolution, of which we have the honor to enclose you copy. Among the measures immediately necessary for placing these matters on a proper foundation is the acquiring a knowledge of the proper resources of these States. The articles of consumption which we would most particularly be informed of are flour, wheat, rye, barley, oats, corn & rice, beef, pork, working oxen & horses, cyder and vinegar. The ignorance and the interests of mankind oppose so strongly our wishes in this respect, that after every effort and every prudent precaution our information will perhaps be of far less importance than could be wished. It is, however, our duty to aim at it, and we have no

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reason to doubt your Excellency's concurrence in the steps necessary to attain what we have in view, especially when it is considered how readily your own good sense will dictate the impracticability of continuing the war, at least of continuing it to advantage, while we remain supremely ignorant of the supplies our country is capable of affording. We have to intreat that your Excellency, from your knowledge of the productions of the several parts of your State, would appoint some proper persons in whose industry and secrecy you can confide, to make proper lists, through the districts you shall severally allot to them, of the quantity and number of each of the articles abovenamed as are produced in it, which may probably be over and above the necessary consumption of the inhabitants. And also as nearly as possible the quantity, &c., which they consume over and above their own production, or of what they do not produce.

We hope that these lists may be transmitted to us with all convenient speed, to the end that proper arrangements may immediately be made for the ensuing campaign. Upon transmitting an account of the expences which may accrue in this business, they shall immediately be paid.

You will perceive, Sir, that every precaution should be taken to prevent this object from transpiring, lest, as on many former occasions, the devoted adherents of lucre should make a gain of the public distresses.

We are respectfully,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t} & hble. servants.

NATH. SCUDDER.
GOUV^{R} MORRIS.
W^{M} WHIPPLE.

The Gov^{r} of Connecticut.

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THOMAS SEYMOUR* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

HARTFORD, Novr 18th, 1778.

HONORABLE SIR, — Last week Col. Bland of the Continental Dragoons, sent by Genl Washington to take the comand of the Convention troops, applied to me for the aid of a small party of our lt horse to facilitate the conduct of the forementioned troops thro' this State.† As the matter required dispatch, & thot the request very reasonable in order to the general weal, I accordingly ordered a detachment of *ten* from Capt Norton's troop (lately Capt Loomis's) on the east side the river under the comand of a Corporal, to join Col. Bland at Enfield, which was executed accordingly. Their service was limited in the same manner with the militia; & I engaged them the same allowances as have been usual on similar occasions. I have no doubt of your Excellency's full approbation of my conduct, tho' a little out of comon strict course, & am, with great truth & regard,

Yr Excelys most obt, hble. servt.

THOS SEYMOUR.

Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 18th Novr, 1778. Lt Colo Seymour, *de* Escort to Colo Bland.

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* Thomas Seymour was born in Hartford, Conn., March 17, 1734–5, graduated at Yale College in 1755, and studied law. Shortly after the breaking out of the War of the Revolution he was made Lieutenant-Colonel of the first regiment of Connecticut militia, and in May, 1777, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel of the Light Horse. After the close of the war he was chosen the first mayor of Hartford, and filled that office for twenty-eight years, when he resigned. He died in that city July 30, 1829. See Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 378, 379; Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776–Feb., 1778, p. 262. — EDS.

† Colonel Bland's application was written with a pencil, and was probably enclosed to Governor Trumbull in Colonel Seymour's letter. It is as follows: —

Col. Bland presents his compts to Col. Seymor of the Light Horse. Col. Bland, being appointed to take the command of the Convention troops through the State of Connecticut, thinks it will be essentially necessary to have a small party of Lt Dragoons, wd be glad to know of Col. Seymor whether he could not spare a subaltern's command, viz., a Cornet, Serjt, Corporal & ten for that purpose when required, on a short notice.

Novr 12.

BULL'S TAVERN. —EDS.

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ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, 24th Novr, 1778.

SIR, — Enclosed are the treaties between His Most Christian Majesty and the United States which Congress have ordered to be sent to the government of each State. It is not thought expedient to publish them at present in the newspapers.

We are informed that the Assembly of New Jersey have at length acceded to the Confederation, and authorized their Delegates to ratify it in Congress. The Assembly of Maryland is also now sitting; 'tis hoped the two latter † will agree to the articles of Confederation before they rise.

Congress has for some days past attended to the affair of the currency every day, and have agreed to persevere untill some measures are concluded on. They have some votes on the subject, but no plan is completed. We have no material news from foreign parts, and whether the enemy intend to evacuate New York this winter remains yet uncertain.

The committee on the late Commissary General's affair have not reported since the recommitment.

The appointment of Jonth Trumbull, junr, Esqr, to the office of Comptroller of the Treasury was unanimous. His acceptance of the trust and speedy entry upon the execution of it would, I apprehend, be much for the public good.

I begin to be impatient for the arrival of some of the Delegates from Connecticut, as some of my affairs require my return home. I hope two will come forward imme-

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* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

† It is evident from this expression that something was omitted when this letter was copied into the Letter Book. Probably Maryland and Delaware were "the two latter" States mentioned by Mr. Sherman. — EDS.

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diately. I wrote to Col° Dyer and Mr. Root on the subject some time ago, but have received no answer.

The prices of articles are very high here, from six to eight times as high as they were in the year 1774. It is difficult for any one State to fix a standard in trade for itself without injury to the general interest. I hope a scheme will soon be adopted for doing justice to the public and individuals without any violation of the public faith.

I am, with great esteem & regard,
Your Excellency's obedient, hble. servant.
ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

WILLIAM LEDYARD* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, in Lebanon. P Nath^l Shaw, Esq^r.

NEW LONDON, 1^th Dec^r, 1778.

HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.

SIR, — As the time of the artillery companies being engag^d for, is near expired, ocations my troubling your Excellency at this time. As the fortification at New London & Groton have now got to be objects of some considerable importance, more esspecially the latter, and the stores, &c., in the different magazeans of considerable value, which calls for the greatest care in order to prevent their being embezled or otherways destroyed, it has ever been the case whenever the militia have come upon the ground that more or less destruction has been made. I should be extreemly glad if your Excellency will please

* Colonel William Ledyard was born in Groton, Conn., Dec. 6, 1738, was early commissioned as a colonel in the Connecticut militia, and was in command at New London and Groton at the time of Arnold's expedition. After the surrender of Fort Griswold, Sept. 6, 1781, he was "inhumanly massacred" by a British officer. See New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, vol. vii. pp. 11, 12; Battle of Groton Heights and its Centennial, *passim*. — EDS.

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to give some orders respecting the keys of the magazeans, stores, &c. I find the more I am acquainted with the duty belonging to a fortification, the more I se the necessity of having proper soldiers to garison them; in the late alarm I engag^{d} about forty sailors belonging to the ships of war in this harbour to assist in defending the fortifications. Your Excellency is fully acquainted that the militia in general are but of little service in working of cannon. The fortifications at Groton have now upwards of thirty cannon mounted in them, which will require at least a hundred good experienced soldiers to serve them whenever the fortress is attack^{d}. I dont know of any fortification belonging to the American States under better curcumstances of beeing defended than these at Groton, but beg your Excellency will forgive me when I give it as my oppinion that fortifications are of but very little consequence if they are to be defended only by unexperienced troops. The duty necessary to be known in a fortification is considerable; the signals proper to be given at Fort Trumbull, &c., with regard to vessels passing & repassing requires the greatest care as well as the necessary knowledge.

I am your Excellency's most ob^{t}
& most humb^{e} serv^{t}.
W^{m} LEDYARD.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

ARNOLD WELLES* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^{r}, in Lebanon.

BOSTON, 4th Dec^{r}, 1778.

SIR, — This waits on your Excellency with acknowledgment of the honour of your letter of the 28th ult., &

* Arnold Welles, a lineal descendant from Governor Thomas Welles of Connecticut, was born in Boston Dec. 25, 1727, graduated at Harvard College in 1745, and died in Boston

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the most sincere condolance on the heavy loss its seal reminds of your sustaining. We are obliged to your Excellency for the permit to M^r^ Elisha Gillet. That any obstructions have hapned in our case have been very unexpected to us, & not a little perplexing. We flatter ourselves, there would have been no difficulty, if it had lain wholly with your Excellency, or could the authority have been fully apprised (which is more than can be expected of such large bodies) of the distressed situation of this town, & the peculiar circumstances of our case.

The inhabitants of this town & the vicinity have always been used to look to other States for great part of their subsistance. They have been greatly exhausted of late, what with the French fleet & Burgoyne's army. Ever since regaining possession, they have been under almost constant apprehension of an attack from the enemy, under frequent actual alarms, & cannot be justly viewed in any other light than on Continental duty, a garrison guarding against the threatned inroads of the enemy, & defending almost the only avenue for the supply of the army with warlike stores, &c. Yet after freely delivering up, & without grudging, what provision there was in town for the use of the French fleet on its first arrival, they were astonished, to find themselves denied any supply, in actual danger once & again of suffering for want, spectators only of the supply of the fleet, not more on Continental duty than themselves, nor on duty of more importance. I hope it will be considered, as it ought to be, that our aim has been, without the least view of traffick, only to apply a small part of the produce of our own land to the support of our own families, & those of persons employed by us, & depending on us for the means of subsistence.

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in August, 1802. He was a merchant, and President of the Branch Bank of the United States. His only brother, Samuel, was born in Boston March 5, 1725, graduated at Harvard College in 1744, was also a merchant, and died in Boston Oct. 15, 1799. See History of the Welles Family, pp. 121, 122. — Eds.

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These considerations will, we cannot but hope, pave the way for the other loads to come, which my brother (who is now out of town) came away in full assurance of, after waiting on your Excellency for that purpose, being what the families above mention'd have most pressing occasion for.

I am, your Exc^{y} much obliged & most obed^{t} serv^{t}.

ARNOLD WELLES.

His Exc^{y} Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 4th Decem^{r} 1778. Arnold Welles, Esq^{r}, *de* Permit for y^{e} Rents. rec^{d} 12th vespere.

ROGER ENOS AND JOHN MEAD* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

SAY-HORSENECK, Decem^{r} 5th, 1778.

SIR, — The defenceless state of this part of the country occations us to trouble your Excellency with this application, to solicit your influence to procure an order for part of the Continental troops to be order'd this way; the country has now no security from the incursions of the enemy in large or small parties, except what oppositions can be given by part of Col^{o} Enos' reg^{t}. Gen^{l} McDougal is station'd at Peekskill, Gen^{l} Putnam at Danbury, each thirty miles from this place, the country from New York to Danbury is intirely open to the ravages of the enemy; and they have already avail'd themselves of the removal of the troops. By the best information, the markets in New York have not been so amply supply'd this two

* Roger Enos was born in Simsbury, Conn., in 1729, entered the military service of Connecticut in 1759, and served at intervals nearly to the close of the War of the Revolution. In 1779 he removed to Vermont, where he took an active part in public affairs. He died in Colchester, Vt., Oct. 6, 1808. (See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. ii. p. 359.) John Mead was a representative from Greenwich to the General Assembly of Connecticut at various times. May 1, 1775, he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the Ninth Regiment, and in May, 1781, he succeeded General Silliman in command of the Fourth Brigade. (See Conn. Col. Records, vol. xv. p. 43; Record of Connecticut Men during the Revolution, pp. 430, 435.) — EDS.

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years as within ten days past, cattle, wheat, hogs, & poultry of all kinds, in great quantities are daily driving to the enemy, and the honest friends to the country are exceedingly distress'd, their property taken away, and they left without even a hope of protection, without your Excellency's interposition can procure it; the State regt here can do little more than guard the roads by the East River, whilst the country between this & North River, fourteen miles or more, is open to be travers'd by the enemy without a check; could a brigade from Peekskill be advanc'd to Croton River & one from Danbury to Peck's Land or Round Hill, between this place and Bedford, their distances would not then be so great but that an effectual security might be given by their guards to great extent of country, which will otherwise afford large supplies to enemy and greatly distress & disaffect the inhabitants.

We are, with esteem and respect,
Your Excellency's obedt servts.

ROGER ENOS.
JOHN MEAD.

5th Decemr, HORSENECK.

P. S. While writing we have recd authentic intelligence that twenty six transports with troops on board and one ship of force are moving up North River; they were last evening at Tarrytown. Three thousand are also gone up by the river side, and had reach'd that place; it is suppos'd their intentions are to go to Bedford, sweeping the country of the cattle, &c.

ROGER ENOS.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Say, 5th Decem., 1778. Colonels Enos & Mead, *de* our coasts exposed. Excursion of the enemy to Tarrytown for Bedford. Recd 8th.

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JEREMIAH POWELL TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOSTON, Dec^{r} 8th, 1778.

SIR, — It is represented to this Board that a number of men in the State of Connecticut, as well as this and other of the United States of America, are concerned in counterfeiting the Continental currency, and many more in passing and uttering the same to the great detriment of the public. I am, therefore, directed by the Council of this State to request the authority of your State to appoint a Committee of Secrecy for the purpose of discovering and apprehending those who are guilty of such villainous practices, and to look up evidences against them, in order to bring them to condign punishment, and instruct said committee to confer with a committee that is already chosen by this State, as also a committee that is chosen by the State of New Hampshire for that purpose, as a most necessary and probable method to put a stop to such nefarious practices and save the sinking credit of our currency.

In the name & behalf of the Council, I have the honor to be, with great respect and esteem, Sir,

Your very humble servant.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL. JERE. POWELL, *President.*

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO THE DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT,
LEBANON, 8th December, 1778.

GENTLEMEN, — The depredations made last summer on our settlements at Susquehannah were very alarming; 'tis so likewise that no provisions are made for the security of those inhabitants that returned to take care of what the enemy did not destroy. I am informed that the force hitherto sent is in no measure sufficient to prevent mischief being done them very frequently. That

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there are great quantities of pork and grain remaining, but many of the inhabitants who were returning with intention to resettle their habitations are discouraged and coming off, through fear of the plunderers that often appear among them. Ought not an adequate number to repel the enemy to be sent for relief of the suffering inhabitants that do remain there? I esteem it a matter worthy serious and early consideration.

You are sensible of the sad condition our finances and currency are in. I trust Congress is meditating a remedy. 'Tis necessary this State should be acquainted with the measures concerted on that subject at the next sessions of our Assembly. 'Tis a Continental object, — no one State can give the necessary relief; and unless some relief is speedily provided our affairs will grow worse and worse. The remedy for the public is the same as for a private person, — that is, to pay his debt when 'tis in his power. 'Tis in the power of the public to pay off a reasonable part of its debt. The bills are yet in the hands of almost every body; and 'tis easier paying taxes when this is the case than it will be when speculators and others have accumulated the bills. Is not taxation the plain path for us? but then 'tis necessary that all the States tax in some degree of similarity. Here let me ask whether all the States have gone into the measure of funding their own bills to take them out of circulation? Have they paid the several sums for which they are requested to tax and pay for the use of the Continent? What will probably be the success of an *internal* loan so long as the value of our currency is left unascertained, and so rapid a depreciation going? Will not your monied people choose rather to make the best of their money in some kind of business than to trust it to an uncertain future redemption in the hands of the public? A foreign loan taken upon proper principles appears to me much most eligible. There is no

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doubt it may be obtained when Confederation is settled, and funds for it can be laid. Why are not the Articles of Confederation concluded? Is it not needful this and the affair of our finances be finally settled before the enemy leave us? Will not these things left for an after-settlement breed internal differences?

The committee to superintend the Commissary and Quarter Master Departments have wrote circular letters on that subject, and also for the means to furnish for political arithmetic. I wish to know what other States do on that head. I can easily find the number of rateable polls, and accounts of the stocks and improved lands with their probable produce of grain, the live cattle driven this year to the army, and the salted provisions put up by the Commissaries.

Suffer me to enquire after our M^r^ Dean, what situation is he now in? He has been long arrived from France. I see no intimations from Congress of the reception he meets with from them, or any approbation from that body of the services done by him for these States abroad. Is he now, or is he like to be again, employed by the public? If his services have been worthily executed, should he not have the praise that is their due?

Your letter of the 10^th^ November is duly received.

I am, with great esteem & regard, gentlemen,

Your obedient, hble. servant.

JON^a^ TRUMBULL.

The Hon. Delegates of this State.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO THE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.

LEBANON, 10^th^ December, 1778.

GENTLEMEN, — Your several favors of the 11^th^ November are duly received. No instance of persons in office under the Continent using the public monies intrusted to

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them in engrossing articles upon the public is at present within my knowledge. Such nefarious practice where discovered should be treated with the utmost severity. The practice of private engrossers is abundantly prejudicial. I could most heartily wish measures might be devised to stop its dangerous influence. These two matters shall be laid before the legislature of this State at their next meeting in January, when their importance, I hope, will be duly impressed on the consideration of that body. That respecting the Quarter Master & Commissary Departments and the obtaining knowledge of the internal resources of these States, observe with particular attention. At a reasonable time I hope to be able to give you some satisfactory information on that head, relative to this State. In the mean time shall be much obliged if you will acquaint me with the measures fallen on by other States towards obtaining the end you propose.

I am most respectfully, gentlemen,

Your obedient, hble. servant.

JONᵀᴹ TRUMBULL.

Honᵇˡᵉ [N.] SCUDDER, G. MORRIS, & Wᵐ WHIPPLE, Esqʳˢ, Committee of Congress.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HENRY LAURENS.

LEBANON, 10th December, 1778.

SIR, — Your esteemed favor of the 10th of last month is now before me. I feel a pleasure in the estimation you express of the services of my late son, the purchasing Commissary General. My own thoughts have often turned in the same strain; and I fondly think still that the disadvantages accruing to the States in consequence of his being obliged to leave that service is not overrated by your estimation, but that is passed. He is gone. I now only wait for that justice I think is due his estate from the public for those services he actually

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performed. I observe in your letter a stroke relative to the adjustment of the accounts. From the ill state of health in which the Commissary General left the army, from the increase of his disorders after his retirement, and the long and severe conflict he endured with a complication of diseases untill his death, Congress may easily form to themselves an excuse for the accounts not having been adjusted by him; the unavoidable difficulties attending an adjustment by an administrator utterly unacquainted with the accounts, no gentleman versed in business can be ignorant of. A delay must therefore now be reasonably expected. I have the pleasure, however, to inform that his cash account is in a fair way to be prepared for settlement; and that their appearance allowing for times and circumstances in which the business was conducted is favorable beyond expectation. These accounts which are stating and collecting by my son, M^r^ Jon^th^ Trumbull, jun^r^, will by him be exhibited for settlement on his arrival in Philadelphia.

I am, I confess, seriously alarmed at the state of our currency, and the seeming delay of the necessary remedies. A fine-spun theorem on this occasion I deem unnecessary. It will not answer our purpose. A careful attention to the nature and causes of the disorder will naturally lead to the remedies needful. The cure must be radically attempted, or the applications will but increase the disease. The practice of monopolizers, engrossers, &c., are a great source of our evils; these, however, are not the principal, such as they are. I think they may be reduced. Are not the means by which we have been directed to this situation instructive lessons, pointing us to the cure? So long as our magazines were kept full, and our stores plentifully and seasonably provided, speculators had not the opportunity of imposing an artificial scarcity and demand upon the public, and thereby making their own prices upon the articles

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of public consumption. Is it that we have exhausted our resources that our supplies are now so scantily made from hand to mouth, perpetually keeping up the demand, and playing in tune to the desires of the ungodly seekers of gain? Certainly not; our internal resources are still great; our magazines can again be filled. They must be filled; the idea of scarcity from this artificial demand must be removed. This appears to me to be one great remedy. Another and very principal one is to reduce the quantity of circulating cash, and means devised to prevent the necessity of constant and perpetual new emissions for all emergencies. To do this loans and taxation must be co-operative. Taxation alone will be too slow and dilatory. Loans must therefore be adopted; and of these I think a foreign loan must be most eligible. I don't know how in our present circumstances an internal one would operate. I am rather of opinion that untill the value of the currency is fully ascertained by the public, and so long as a rapid depreciation is going, your monied people will rather choose to make the best of their money in some kind of business than to trust to an uncertain future redemption in the hands of the public. Confederation being finished & funds established, a foreign loan, I think, may undoubtedly be obtained; and this improved by sale of bills of exchange at the rates they will fetch, and a part perhaps invested & realized in silver and gold brought into these States and delivered for the redemption of part of our bills at such discounted rates as would be easily complied to, might be attended with very salutary consequences. At same time in aid of this remedy heavy taxation should be kept up; our debts should be paying; our new emissions should be as small as possible, and punctually sunk off. Our yearly expenditures should certainly be reduced by a yearly payment of taxes, and as much of the public funded debt paid from time to time as circumstances will admit. A

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youthful, growing, vigorous, and industrious nation need be under no great apprehension from a very considerable public debt. Peace, arts, commerce, and industry will soon exonerate such a state.

Your favor of 16th Novemr is also recieved, with its several enclosures, which are particularly noted.

I am, with the greatest esteem, Sir,

Your most obedient, hble. servant.

JONA TRUMBULL.

The Honble President LAURENS.

MESHECH WEARE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

STATE OF NEWHAMPSHIRE, EXETER, Decemr 24th, 1778.

SIR, — I am desired by the Legislature of this State to transmit to your State an Act passed here for preventing the return to this State of certain persons therein named, and others who have left or shall leave this State, or either of the United States of America, and have joined or shall join the enemies thereof, which I accordingly inclose; and am to desire the favor of you to transmit to the Assembly of this State a list of all persons who have left your State and joined the enemies of the United States, in order that such persons may be prevented from residing in this State.

I shall esteem it a particular favor, Sir, to be informed what measures have been taken in your State respecting the confiscating, sequestering or securing the estates of absentees or persons who have joined the enemy. As these are matters of considerable importance, and what

* Meshech Weare was born in Hampton, N. H., June 16, 1713, and graduated at Harvard College in 1735. In 1776, after the flight of Sir John Wentworth, the last Royal Governor of New Hampshire, he was chosen President, to which office he was annually re-elected until the formation of the new Constitution in 1784, when he was chosen the first Governor of the new State, but was obliged by growing infirmities to resign in a few months, and died Jan. 14, 1786. — EDS.

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may be the most proper methods of proceeding therein is now in contemplation here, it will be very acceptable to know what has been done in other States; therefore desire the favor that your Secretary would send me copies of such Acts or Resolves as have passed in your State relative to these matters.

I have the honor to be, with the highest sentiments of respect,

Your most obedient, humᵇᵉ servant.

MESHECH WEARE.

Governor TRUMBULL.

RETURN J. MEIGS TO TITUS HOSMER.

The Hon'ble Titus Hosmer, Esqʳ. Middletown. Pʳ Capᵗ Warner.

READING, 26th Decembʳ, 1778.

DEAR SIR, — The uneasiness among the troops has in some measure subsided since the rising of the last Assembly. The officers have done their utmost to persuade the men that justice will be done them without any unnecessary delay, notwithstanding which there is freequent desertions. If the next Assembly should rise without possitively doing something for them, it is my opinion that mutiny or desertions will reduce our battalions to nothing before Spring. The officers will not find credit enough with the men to keep them; they have been so constantly disappointed in every thing for which they enter'd the service that they have no dependance on promises which have no other credit than the public. I dont at present recollect that any one engagement on the side of the public has been fullfilld, except giving them the nominal sum of their wages. In the first place they never had the provisions which was promised nor an equivalent in money, the money which they receiv'd in lieu of same had sunk five sixths of its real value

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before they receiv'd it. The [c]loathing has fell short in every article. The public promised that those that would find their own cloathing should receive money for every article at prices which was then affixed; there is upwards of 6,000 dollars due to the soldiers of my reg^{t} for cloathing which they found themselves for the year 1777 on that promise. I have not yet been able to obtain that money, & if it could be obtaind, its intrinsic value is not worth more than one eighth of what the cloathing cost the men. The coats for my reg^{t} for the present year are now nearly finish'd with the year. I have not receiv'd, & have no prospect of receiving, half the breeches, one third of the shirts or stockings, & not more than three fourths of the shoes, which were engaged them by the public. I have received 130 blankets only for the present year from the continent, have received ten only from the State. The men that found their own blankets for the year 1777 cannot get pay for them. I have many men that have not had a blanket for 18 months past. I have exerted myself to procure all these things, & have promised the men a thousand times that they would be supply'd, & am now every day obliged to repeat these promises almost against belief & expectation. I have applications every day for these things & am witness to their distresses for want of them. Some now have neither shoes or stockings, a great number have no breeches or scarcely a substitute; linnen overhauls worn almost out are little better than nothing. The duty of an officer is ten times as hard as it would be if the men were cloathed; to keep up that discipline which is necessary we want it in our power to say to them, are you not cloathed, fed & paid? But now we cannot, for the fact is entirely the reverse. The tractable disposition of the troops is the only way to account for that degree of discipline which is establishd. The sufferings of the soldiers for want of cloathing is a great grievance. But

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the capital greivance is the trifling value of their wages, occasion'd by the depreciation of our currency. The Assembly have been very generous towards the soldiers family's. But that dont extend to more than one fifth of the army. I am very sure that at this juncture it will not do to refer the matter to Congress. To urge to the soldier the necessity of keeping up an army & painting to them the awfull consequences of disbanding, to themselves & to their country, the great difficulties the country labours under in procuring supplys, &c., will not be motives sufficient to keep them easy, while they are convinced that the country is able to relieve them. If the troops should mutiny before they receive redress, they may take it in their heads, that whatever is done for them afterwards was done in consequence of their mutiny [*torn*] may in f[ut]ure have recourse to the same scandalous expedient. What mode can be adopted for [providing ?] what is justly due to the army I cannot tell. I don't believe it possible to reduce the matter to certainty. I had thought that we might endeavor to estimate how much money the soldier expended at the State Commissary's for refreshments & cloathing p^{r} month, & how much money had been expended for provisions at home at the stated prices, & any other advantage of that kind they may have had, & make a deduction from their monthly pay, & then see what part of their wages to calculate the depreciation upon. The depreciation in 77 was much less than in 78. I am convinced that its impossible to calculate the matter with precision, but giving the matter a form of an estimation will stop all complaints. Some doubtless estimate their loss too high. I never did make any estimate. But at present it appears to me that there is about two years pay due to the army. I have never made myself very uneasy on my own account & dont desire that my opinion should influence any body. Sir, you will pardon me this

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long scroll, while you know that I am, with the greatest respect & esteem, your obed^{t}. servant.

R. J. MEIGS.

Indorsed: Dec^{r} 26, 1778. Col^{o} Meigs to the Hon^{ble} Titus Hosmer, Esq^{r}, *de* the affairs of the soldiers.

ELIPHALET DYER, OLIVER ELLSWORTH AND JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, January 4th, 1779.

SIR, — We had the honor of your favor of the 8th. Decemb^{r} by Brown, who arrived here about the 20th. Congress was then deeply engaged in the matter of finance, and in taking measures, at least to give some check to the rapid course of depreciation of their paper currency, to releive its sinking credit and possibly gradually to appreciate its value. A portion of every day was set apart for that purpose, and was not closed till Saturday night last. We thought it prudent to detain Brown till we could transmit to you the proceedings of Congress on that subject, lest his return without any intelligence might fix the impression on the minds of the people that Congress was only amusing them with bare pretences, while in fact they meant to have the bills die in the possessors' hands. We are happy that it is now in our power to transmit to your Excellency such resolutions of Congress as we hope will wholly remove those impressions, and as by the co-operation of the people and the blessing of God will give permanent credit to our bills, and furnish us still with the means of our defence. The measures at present adopted relative thereto are herewith transmitted, which renders it needless to point out the same in this letter, — possibly some other measures may be taken to restore commutative justice among the people.

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* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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Your letter and the petition of the officers in the Connecticut line to our Assembly have been laid before Congress, and referred to a committee who have not yet made their report. Possibly the Assembly will not think it proper to proceed any further on that subject than to make some reasonable provision for the support of their families, in the manner already proposed, untill they hear further from Congress on that head, which we hope will be in a few days. Indeed the officers and soldiers in the army seem to be in many respects on the same footing with our salary men, orphans, widows, &c., and hope some measures may soon be taken which will operate to the administring justice to the whole, as near as these calamitous times will possibly admit of.

A foreign loan is in contemplation, but how soon it may be effected is at present uncertain. By the best information we can obtain, the several, or most of the States in the union have taken measures to fund their own bills, and have paid and are now paying in the several taxes apportioned to them the last year, and all seem inclined to tax as high as possible.

You enquire, Sir, why the Articles of Confederation are not concluded. We have only to answer that the States of Maryland and Delaware have not yet acceded, and we are waiting with impatience for their union, and as the Articles drawn comprehend the thirteen States jointly it is at least a doubt whether the assent already gained from eleven States is not founded on the joint consent of the whole thirteen, and unless the remaining two join the whole is void, and will make it necessary to send back to each State for their approbation if no more than eleven States unite in the Confederation, which would take up much time, beside the inconvenience which might attend, therefore are still waiting in hopes of the compliance of the other two.

As to what is done in consequence of the circular let-

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ters sent out by the committee to superintend the Commissary's and Quarter Master Department are not able to acquaint you, as the committee have not made any report. Therefore must refer to M^r^ Sherman, who is one of that committee, for intelligence on that head.

The unhappy situation of our western frontiers, as well as those of New York, are truly melancholy, and demand the greatest attention, both as it respects the present inhabitants, former settlers, and the supplies derived from them. The Board of War have reported an addition to Col^o^ Hartley's regiment, who is a worthy, spirited, and attentive officer, and now on the frontier part at Wyoming. We hope further additions will be made for their defence. General Washington is now in town, on the request of Congress, and a committee appointed to confer with him on the subject of any new or future operations, and hope something to effect will soon be done.

M^r^ Dean has been fully heard by Congress, to the utmost of his wishes, but by reason of the pressure of other important business nothing is decided respecting him or his negociations. We know not of any fault in the delay; the late publications are rather premature and unhappy, as we conceive no good will be derived from them, or useful instruction.

January the 5^th^. — We have been obliged to detain Brown to this day, to have the quotas of the several States affixed for their present proportion of the fifteen millions dollars tax for this year, in which is apportioned to Connecticut 1,700,000, — large indeed in sound, but hope may not prove disagreeable, when it is considered with how much more ease so large a sum may be now paid than a much less in future, and that what they overpay now will be allowed to their account, and diminish our proportion of those which will succeed, beside an interest on the overplus in the same manner as that recommended the last year. We have transmitted to your Excellency

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the copies of the resolutions of Congress on these matters, with the quotas affixed to each State, and though through the diversity of the circumstances and interest of individuals, a variety of opinions may be formed, yet we hope they will be received with candor, prove in general satisfactory, and that every one will endeavour to promote the great and good ends therein designed.

Are, with the greatest esteem & respect,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, hble. servants.

ELIPH^{T} DYER.
OLIVER ELSWORTH.
JESSE ROOT.

Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

EBENEZER LEDYARD* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonath^{n} Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Governor of the State of Connecticutt, now att Hartford.

GROTON, 12 Jan^{y}, 1779.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY JONATH^{N} TRUMBULL, ESQ^{R}.

SIR, — Agreable to your Excellency's order to M^{r} Shaw to have the poor prisoners that were landed here from N. York taken good care of, we rec^{d} 52, most of them sick with fevers, mortified feet, &c. We got them into different houses on this bank and did everything in our power to make them comfortable, & in the violent cold snowstorm they began to brake out with the smallpox, which oblig^{d} us to move them as fast as they broak out; at the same time every family that had taken any of the prisoners were taken down with the fever, likwise every nurse, which oblig^{d} us to remove the sick prisoners from

* Ebenezer Ledyard was the eldest brother of Col. William Ledyard, and "was a ship owner and West India merchant of wealth and influence." His losses by the burning of Groton far exceeded those of any other person. He was often a delegate to the General Assembly from Groton, and during part of the war was a commissary at that place. See The Battle of Groton Heights, p. 257. — EDS.

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every house & get fresh nourses. The families that took in the sick people were all needy people, and we are now oblig[d] to provide doctors, nurses & every other thing for them. Indeed the bank is a general hospittal, only myself & brother remains clear of the fever out of the number that has been exposed with the prisoners. The authority of this town have not had the smallpox, dare not come to our assistance; indeed those persons that have had the small pox keep away on acco[t] of the fever. We have removed all the prisoners that broke out with the smallpox, and were incouraged to think that the inhabitants wold not have it, but this day two of the persons that took in prisoners broke out, and I expect a great number to have it. Six of the prisoners are dead on this side, two with smallpox and four with the fever. I find much difficulty to get supplys. My flour is allmost out, expect a load from the westward soone. I dont know what could been done here to support the soldiers & those poor prisoners, if your Excellency had not enabled us to get flower from N. York State. We are oblig[d] to shift everyone of the prisoners' cloths, to make them comfortable and get them prepared to goe home as fast as they get strength. Many of their friends have brought horses for them. We have got most of those now left in a fair way to get well. Our greatest fears is now for the poor inhabitants, but shall doe everything in our power to prevent the smallpox from spreading. One of my sons is very ill with the fever; it is of the spoted kind. People are very loth to come into nurse. I waited on the authority & selectmen yesterday, & desired them to press nurses & send them to me; they engaged to doe it. The market people have stoped coming in, that we cant get fresh meat.

I am, with due respect, your Excellency's

most obedient, humb[e] s[t].

EBENEZ[R] LEDYARD.

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P. S. We have lost but one of our inhabitants yet with the fever; but many lays very dangerous. Scarce a house but has more or less down with the fever on this bank & it begins to spread more back in the town.

E. L.

Indorsed: 12th Janv, 1778[9]. Ebenr Ledyard, Esqr, *de* sickness bro't by prisoners, &c., recd 16th instt.

SAMUEL ELIOT, JR., TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Publick Service. His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esqr, in Hartford. Favd by Mr Torrey.

Boston, January 22, 1779.

Honp Sir, — I embrace the opportunity of Mr Torrey's return (to Jona. Trumbull, Junr, Esqr) of forwarding the sum of one thousand eight hundred pounds, in Continental currency, & one hundred & fifty dollars in specie, for the use of the State of Connecticut, to be paid to you on your order. The sum in Continental money would have been much larger, but (for the present) I thought it best to defer it, at least untill I hear from your Excellency. The stoppage of the emissions of May 20, 1777, & April 11th, 1778, has put us into some confusion, & untill the report of the Committee of both houses of Assembly is made known (which will be on the morrow) the emissions remain on hand as so much dead stock; should they report in favor of its passing until the 1st of June, I shall immediately exchange & forward what I have upon hand, my being unacquainted with what your State have done, or intend to do, will, I hope, be an excuse for my troubling you upon it.

The long & unhappy law-suit, (with Capt. John Bradford, Continental Agent) respecting the three transports taken by Capt. Harding in the brigg Defence, in Boston Bay, has taken up my whole attention from the 3d in-

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stant. It is some satisfaction to me, that a prospect opens of having the affair adjusted in an equitable manner. Some of the judges have assured me it shall certainly be brought on this term. In my last letter to your Excellency I mentioned the repeated desire of the Board of War of this State, of payment of flour borrowed for the use of the O. Cromwell & Defence. I now beg leave to acquaint you, that this State, by their Commissary, Daniel Davis, Esq^{r}, took of Capt. Reid out of the Medway prize, for the use of the troops belonging to this State, a quantity of bread. I have petitioned the Court for permission to transfer the quantity so taken, which will be a help to me, & believe I shall be able to cancel my debt with about two tons. M^{r} Torrey is paid for conveying the money to Connecticut by me.

I have the honor to be,

Your dutiful & obedient servt.

SAM. ELIOT, JUN^{R}.

Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 22 Jan^{ry}, 1779, Sam^{l} Eliot, Jun^{r}, Esq^{r}. Receipts. Petition to y^{e} Assembly. Rec^{d} at Hartford.

PELEG CLARKE AND NATHANIEL MUMFORD TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CONNECTICUT.*

The Honble. The General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, now sitting at Hartford.

PROVIDENCE, Jan^{ry} 23rd, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONORS, — To permit us to lay before you the humble supplications of eleven hundred

* At the session of the General Assembly of Rhode Island in October, 1778, it was "voted and resolved, that Capt. Peleg Clarke, Mr. Nathaniel Mumford," and sixteen other persons, most or all of whom had probably been driven from their homes, "be a committee, to take a regular list of all persons and their families, who have already come off, from Rhode Island; and particularly, of such as need assistance for support, and make returns to the General Assembly or council of war, from time to time, of their names, and in what towns they are received. That the said committee solicit donations from the charit-

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distressed inhabitants of the Town of Newport, many of whom were in affluent, and almost all in comfortable, livings, who have been obliged to leave their habitations, and all the property they were possessed of, in the hands of the enemy, and are now become wretched wanderers, without any place of abode, or means of subsistence but what they can collect from the charity of the good people of this Town, who, tho' well disposed, kind, and generous, have it not in their power to give but a small, a very small, part of the relief necessary for so large a number of unhappy sufferers; especially as they have no small number of their own poor to support. And the long blockade of the port renders it extremely difficult for the artificer to get employ. It would soften the most obdurate heart into sympathetic feeling to behold old age and childhood tottering thro' these streets in their tattered habiliments, seeking bread in this inclement season, chilled with nipping frost, and debilitated with want of food and fuel. We are sorry to say, that we want words to express the forlorn, calamitous situation of these miserable people.

We having been appointed by the Legislature of this State, a Committee, with a number of others not present, to receive such donations as the generous and charitable are pleased to bestow for their relief, would beg lieve to lay before your Honors the present unhappy circumstances of those miserable people and to sollicit

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able inhabitants of our sister states, and other well disposed persons, and distribute what they can by that means collect, as well as what may be granted by this General Assembly, from time to time, as equitably as they can, to the several town councils of the towns where our suffering brethren may reside, to be delivered out to them under their direction, and according to their necessities. And it is hereby most earnestly recommended to the town councils of the several towns within this state, as soon as may be, after the rising of this Assembly, to transmit to Capt. Peleg Clarke, late of Newport, now residing at Providence, an account of what numbers of the inhabitants aforesaid, there are now residing in their respective towns, and what numbers more they can comfortably accommodate with dwelling-places during the coming winter; on receipt of which, from any town, the said committee shall assist in removing so many as they think proper to such town, as soon as possible." See Rhode Island Col. Records, vol. viii. pp. 474, 475. — Eds.

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your Honors to afford them such a supply as you may think it convenient to bestow; and to join with the Honble. Jabez Bowen, Esq^{r}, and M^{r} President Manning, the Committee from this State who wait on your Honors, in entreating permission for a quantity of grain to be purchased and bro't out of your State into this, by Cap^{t} Peleg Clarke, who is Chairman of the Committee to receive the donations, & who waits on your Honors with this, and with design, if your Honors' permission be obtained, to purchase a quantity of corn with the moneys received by the charitable contributions of this and the Massachusetts State.

Your Honors may depend that whatever you may think proper to bestow will be faithfully applied to the use it is designed for; and if the permission be granted no manner of abuse shall be made of it by us.

Such liberalities when bestowed on proper objects, as those of the present occasion, must be pleasing in the sight of Him who delights in the person who feeds the hungry and cloaths the naked. Such, we do assure your Honors, are the people in whose behalf this solicitation is made, by

Your Honors' most obedient
& most hble serv^{ts}.

PELEG CLARKE.
NATH^{L} MUMFORD.

The Honble. The General Assembly,
State of Connecticut.

Indorsed: Jan^{y} 23^{d}, 1779. Committee of the State of Rhode Island *de* Poor of s^{d} State.

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NATHANIEL COFFIN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, in Connecticut.
P favor. Capt^n Swain.

NANTUCKET, 26^th 1^st m^o, 1779.

RESPECTED SIR, — It may seem odd to your Excellency my presuming to address you, but did you know our distresses I believe you would excuse the presumption. The scarcity of provision in this town is such that many families, heretofore good livers, have not a week's provision including roots. Your Excellency must be sensible the embargo effects this island's inhabitants more than any people of these States. What has hastened our calamity, the late great snow storm drove into the sea & smothered half, more or less, of the sheep we depended on; be assured it is maloncholy with us to look on our children. I have five, they no mother, I condole with you, feelingly for your losses, I was no stranger to your last, since I had your vessel which foundered at sea. We have belonging to this place several boats & small vessels in your State; pray use your influence for their dispatch to our relief, that we may not fare worse than our country's enemies (the Saratoga Convention British troops). I conclud from troubling you, hoping it will be in your power to be instrumental to relieve the distresses of hundreds & particular your hitherto obliged,

NATHANIEL COFFIN.

P. S. Pray my love to Jonathan & respects to all the family.

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EDWARD HALLAM* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Governour Trumbull, at Hartford.

NEW LONDON, Jan^{y} 27, 1779.

SIR, — I am put to the disagreable necessity of troubling your Excellency for your advice with respect to the present mode of seizing flour.

The present set of assistant purchasing commissarys on the Continental establishment seem to take the matter for granted that they have an undoubted right to take away what flour they can come at purchased by the Commissarys of the State, but by what rule or law, I do not know; I do not know of any law in this State which authorizes any Continentall commissary to seize provisions from the State commis^{y}. If I am wrong, I must beg to be better inform^{d} by your Excellency. If the Continentall purchasers pursue their present mode, I must be oblig^{d} to quitt purchasing, as any petty purchaser under a Continentall commissary will seize the provision & make null & void any appointment under or from the State of Connecticut, or any appointment from your Excellency. I have inclosed your Excellency a letter from M^{r} Brooks who had purchased some flour for my [me ?] by a certificate from me as commiss^{y} for use of the troops here, which was purchased in this State, in which he informs of the seizure by M^{r} Silleck. I would wish to have your Excellency's opinion whither M^{r} Sillick is not liable to prosecution for damages

* Edward Hallam was appointed by the Governor and Council of Connecticut commissary to the troops at New London July 17, 1777. (See Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776–Feb., 1778, p. 351.) In November, 1779, complaints were "exhibited against him for unfaithfulness in his department in sundry respects," and the Board, after a hearing on the 24th, recorded its "opinion, that the said Hallam is guilty of having too much neglected his duty in the matters complained of, in several instances, to the disadvantage of the public interest, probably owing in good measure to his being engaged and involved in multiplicity of other businesses; and the said Hallam willing and moving to resign and be released from said office of assistant commissary of issues, his resignation is therefore accepted, and he is accordingly releas'd and dismissed from his said office of assistant commissary of issues from and after the last day of Nov^{r} inst." See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–Apr., 1780, pp. 442, 443. — EDS.

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at Common Law. Unless some method prevents such measures it will be absolutely impossible ever to supply any troops here in future. Submitting the matter to your Excellency.

I am your Excellency's
most hb^l & ob^t serv^t.
EDWARD HALLAM.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 27^th Jan^y, 1779. M^r Edward Hallam, *de* Flour, inclosing Brook's Let^r.

ISRAEL PUTNAM TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

CAMP AT READING, Jan^y, 1779.

DEAR SIR, — From yours of the 8^th ult^o & the Resolution inclosed therein, I learnd that the further *consideration* of the Memorial of the officers of the Connecticut line, in behalf of themselves, & the soldiers under their command, was adjourned with the Assembly, which, I apprehend, will accordingly be resum'd early in the present session.

But before a final determination is made on a matter so interesting & momentuous to the army & the public, in its consequence, it was judged necessary that the real state of facts should be known, and every thing brought into view, which may serve to illustrate the object of enquiry.

I have, therefore, at the instance of all the officers of the line, thought proper that the Hon^ble Brigadier General Parsons and Huntington, together with Colonels Bradly & Meigs, & Capt Judd should be present, during the agitating of this important subject, and desire that full attention & faith may be given to the representations which will be made by them.

These gentlemen, or such of them who shall attend, will lay before the Assembly an estimate of the loss sus-

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tained by the troops of this State, in consequence of the inhanced price of all the necessary articles of life, & the unequal value of their pay to what it was at the time of their engaging in the service; together with a calculation of the partial compensation which has been made by the supplies granted by the State, and what in reallity still remains due to them; with any other information, which may afford light & satisfaction in the course of the debate.

Inclosed, your Excellency will observe a return of the supernumerary officers of the Connecticut line who were omitted in the late arrangement, to whom Congress have resolved, that a year's pay shall be given, and have earnestly recommended it to the respective States to which they belong to make such other provision for them as their circumstances & merit entitle them to.

I have nothing further to add, but my sincere wish that justice may be done to the troops, in which case I do not entertain the least doubt but that they will fullfill the engagement on their part with fidelity, will continue to do their duty as brave & faithfull soldiers, in defence of their injured country, with reputation to themselves & honour to the State.

I am, with the highest esteem & regard,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

To His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Jan^y, 1779. Maj^r General Putnam, *de* Petition of the Officers & Soldiers of Connecticut Line.

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, &c., WARWICK, January, 1779.

SIR, — The distressed situation of some parts of this State, occasioned by the scarcity of bread corn, which is increasing in an alarming manner, arising from the opera-

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tions of the war, must be an apology for the General Assembly's again addressing your Excellency upon the subject of the embargo in your State, which prevents any supplies of that article coming from thence into this.

Uncontroulable necessity obliges us to apply to your Excellency for relief. We address you as presiding over a sister State, in friendly alliance; and we hope to be heared with the candour and indulgence due from one confederate State to another.

Commiseration or pity for those in distress is one of the noblest characteristicks of a brave and generous people, and the dictates of humanity will always urge the granting relief as soon as the mind is convinced that the object in distress deserves compassion. We therefore conclude that the reason why the embargo has been continued against us, after repeated applications to your State on the subject, must be, that you have not been convinced of the reality of the distress of some parts of our State occasioned thereby. For we are satisfied that could you behold the great number of inhabitants among us, more especially in our seaport towns, who have neither bread or corn and know not where to procure it, that we should want no other argument than that of humanity to induce your Legislature to repeal an Act which occasions such great distress in a sister State, or at least to permit our people to purchase in your State a quantity of corn sufficient in some measure to alleviate their wants.

We can hardly bring ourselves to immagin[e] that the fertile and plentiful State of Connecticut, when they laid an embargo preventing the exportation of grain, had it even in apprehension that a confederate sister State, bearing the more immediate burthen of the war, would be thereby distressed. And when we consider our selves as engaged in the same common cause, for the support and defence of the same common rights and liberties, in a contest equally beneficial to every State, and that our

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exertions and sufferings, in the war, have been greater, as we conceive, in proportion to our strength and abilities than those of any of the States, we are at a loss what construction to put upon an act which prohibits our receiving the means of subsistance and has a tendency to introduce a famine among us. We cannot but consider it as a measure very alarming to us and fatal in its consequences, and are ready to doubt whether it does not militate against the spirit of the 4th Article of the Confederation which declares that "The People of each State shall have free ingress and regress to and from any other State and shall enjoy therein *all* the privileges of *trade and commerce*, subject to the same duties, impositions and restrictions as the inhabitants thereof respectively."

All embargoes interrupt the natural commercial intercourse of mankind. And when an embargo upon the necessaries of life brings a famine or a scarcity near to a famine upon a people against whom war is not declared, a query will justly arise whether the principles upon which it is founded are just and consonant to the immutable laws of nature and justice. The great Baron Puffendorf in his Law of Nature and Nations observes, —"That as trade and commerce highly promote the interest of all nations, by supplying the unkindness of the soil, which is not every where alike fertile, and by making those fruits seem to be borne in all places of the world which are to be found in any one; so it cannot be less than *inhumanity* to deny to *any son of the earth* the use of those good things which our common mother affords for our support, provided our peculiar right and propriety be not injured by such a favour: And therefore the Megarensians, as mentioned by Plutarch, when the Athenians had forbidden them entrance to all their ports and mart-towns, complained that this was done, *παρὰ τὰ κοινὰ δίκαια*, contrary to the Law of Nations."

Our situation is perhaps somewhat similar to that of

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the good old patriarch Jacob and his numerous family (a little Republic) when he sent into Egypt to buy a supply of corn, saving in this that he found no embargo to prevent his purchase. For we find that notwithstanding Pharaoh and Joseph the rulers of the country well knew that the famine was to last seven years and that even Egypt, their own country, would be reduced to sore distress and famine, yet we read, "That *all* countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn, and he it was that sold to *all* the people of the land."

Holy Writ every where recommends a particular attention to the cries of the distressed, and in a special manner injoins a capital rule, perhaps equally binding on Confederate States as individuals.

It is well known that this State, before these troubles, never raised a sufficiency of bread for its inhabitants. But then we felt no disadvantage on that account, for while blessed with undisturbed commerce that necessary article flowed in plentifully upon us. Our trade to the West Indias and other parts of the world procured us articles with which we purchased very large quantities of flour and bread corn which we annually imported from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut. The towns of Newport and Providence almost wholly received their bread from the other States, as did also several other of our populous villages on the shores. But, alas! what a sad contrast do we now experience! After having our capital taken and now almost ruined by a relentless enemy, who have now possession of one fifth part of our State, we have for two years past had all our harbours blockaded and have been obliged to keep in the field, by draughts from the militia and otherwise, a much larger proportion of our inhabitants than has been done by the States in general, we having now in service three regiments of troops besides our Continental battalions. Our agriculture, which be-

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fore did not furnish the State with near the necessary quan[ti]ty of corn, has hereby been unavoidably diminished. And the last year the memorable storm in August (during the expedition in which the whole of our inhabitants were called into service and could not take care of their fields,) injured the corn we had planted to that degree that it has fallen far short of the usual crop.

And to accumulate *our* misery, we are obliged to behold *that* of a very considerable part of the inhabitants of Rhode Island, who after being rendered destitute and forlorn have been driven from their homes by a cruel enemy and thrown upon us without the means of subsistance. Upwards of a thousand of the late inhabitants of Newport, who heretofore lived comfortably and happily, are now in the town of Providence, the greatest part of whom depend on charity. To behold their distress and hear their cries and not have it in our power to furnish them even with bread corn, that necessary article of life, is a scene truly melancholy and enough to melt the hardest heart. Especially when we consider that it is declared "That whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heared." We intreat your Excellency to consider a real fact, that many families in that town are already rendered intirely destitute, and others, by the pinching hand of want, are reduced to the necessity of being obliged, after having with great difficulty obtained a peck or half a peck of meal, to allowance it out in scanty portions to their moaning children, under an apprehension that when that is gone they can get no more.

Such is our distressed and deplorable situation owing principally to the embargoes which prevent our receiving supplies. And if the embargo in Connecticut is still continued against us we are under the melancholy apprehension of having numbers of our people perish for want of the necessaries of life.

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We therefore intreat your Excellency to lay this matter before the Legislative authority or Council of your State and request them to repeal the embargo act which occasions such great distress to our people, at least so far as prevents the exportation of any articles into this State by land or, if this request cannot be complied with, that some other mode may be pointed out for our relief such as they would wish to have in similar circumstances.

We hope your Excellency will excuse the length of our letter. The pressing importance of the subject has obliged us to be more particular than perhaps we should have been, was this the first application.*

By order and in behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honor to be, with great esteem and respect, Your Excellency's

most obedient, humble servant.

W. GREENE, *Gov^r.*

EZRA STILES† TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq., Governor of the State of Connecticutt. Hartford. Favored by M^r Atwater.

NEW HAVEN, Febry 2, 1779.

SIR, — The Steward of the College has been every way disappointed with respect to flour, so that it has become

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* At the session of the General Assembly of Connecticut, in January, 1779, "Upon the representation to this Assembly made by the Hon^ble the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, that the inhabitants thereof are in great want of some speedy supply of bread-corn: Resolved by this Assembly, that liberty be and the same is hereby granted to the inhabitants of that State to purchase in this State seven thousand bushels of grain, namely rye and indian corn, and the same transport to that State, the embargoes by land and water notwithstanding, under the following regulations. *viz.*: in the county of Hartford, 2500 bushels; in the county of New Haven, 1500 bushels; in the county of Litchfield, 1000 bushels; in the county of Fairfield, 1500 bushels; in the county of Windham, 500 bushels; to be purchased by any one or two gentlemen appointed by the General Assembly or Governor and Council of Safety of that State and properly commissioned for that purpose." See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1788-April, 1780, p. 187. — EDS.

† Rev. Ezra Stiles, D.D., was born in New Haven, Conn., Nov. 29, 1727, and graduated at Yale College in 1746. After graduating he studied for the ministry, and for six

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impossible for us to receive the students.* I have therefore extended the vacation to the 18th instant. The only resource open to us is from an application to the Continental or State stores. These therefore, by the Steward's son, wait upon your Excellency and the Comittee of Safety, humbly requesting permission and order to receive from the Comissary General or his under-comissaries fifty or sixty bbls. of flour for the use of Yale College. We should receive this as a great favor; and we should esteem it an additional favor, in case you should be pleased to grant our request, that the order or permit might be negotiable with any of the Comissaries near at hand, without sending to the Comsy General, whom we suppose to be at Philadelphia. With the greatest respect, I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient,
very humble servant.
EZRA STILES.

His Excellʸ Govʳ TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 2nd Febʸ, 1779. Revd Dr Stiles, Prest, *de* Flower for Colledge.

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years was a tutor in the College; "but religious doubts and an infirm state of health led him in 1752 to lay aside the idea of preaching and to take up a course of legal study, as a result of which he was admitted to the New Haven County bar in November, 1753." On the recovery of his health he decided to give up the practice of the law, and to enter actively on the work of the ministry In October, 1755, he was settled over the Second Congregational Church in Newport, R. I., where he remained until March, 1776, when, in consequence of the dispersion of his flock, he went to Dighton, Mass., and afterward to Portsmouth, N. H. There he supplied the pulpit of the First Church for about a year. In July, 1778, he was installed President of Yale College, which office he held until his death, May 12, 1795. See Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Yale College, vol. ii. pp. 92–97. — EDS.

* Dr. Stiles records in his diary, under date of Dec. 28, 1778, "The Steward being unable to uphold Commons in the Hall, I found it necessary, and accordingly with the Advice of the Tutors I dismissed College, & the Students this Afternoon begun to return home. The Winter Vacation regularly begins the 2nd Thursdy next month to continue for three Weeks." Jan. 20, 1779, "Waited upon his Excellency Gov. Trumbull. . . . Also to request of the Gov. his assistance of the Steward respectg flour from the Public Stores." Jan. 30, "Obliged to extend Vacation a fourt'night fr. 4 to 18 Febry." Feb. 18. "Vacation ended. I set up orders at College, present 30 Students." See The Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles, D.D., LL.D., vol. ii. pp. 315, 316, 320, 321. — EDS.

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ELIPHALET DYER, OLIVER ELLSWORTH, AND JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.*

PHILADELPHIA, Feb^{y} 11, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — Your first enquiry, we presume, will be, how goes on Confederation? We have the pleasure to inform you that Jersey and Delaware have acceded, and Maryland alone stands out. Her reasons for it we enclose to you; and whether we shall send to all the States for their consent to a Confederation of twelve, or wait for Maryland to consider better of it and accede, will be the most expeditious and prudent method of bringing this important business to a close, is the question.

Recruiting, providing for, arranging, and paying the army have long engaged the attention of Congress. These are all important objects, and notwithstanding the present deranged state of our foreign affairs and internal resources, and the reduced condition of our finances, we hope and trust that such wise measures will be adopted and supported by the united exertions of the several States as will, through the smiles of Heaven, put them upon a firm and respectable footing. The committee appointed to confer with General Washington on this business have prepared a number of resolutions to lay before Congress, which when passed we shall embrace the earliest opportunity to transmit to your Excellency.

The resolution passed upon the representation from the State of Rhode Island of their inhabitants being likely to famish through the operation of the land embargo in Connecticut has been transmitted by the President.

Although M^{r} Dean has long since been heard on his agency abroad, yet his affairs remain undecided upon.

* Printed from the copy in Trumbull's Letter Book. — EDS.

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A committee is appointed to look through them, in order to bring them to a proper and speedy issue.

The misunderstanding which subsisted amongst our commissioners when abroad, and the unfavorable insinuations given respecting the merit of each other have excited (to say no more) the caution of Congress, at least of many of the members in regard to their transactions abroad. Mr Dean's publication and the reply of Common Sense, particularly that part which asserted that he had in his hands a letter which shewed that the supplies Mr Dean so pompously plumed himself upon were all promised and engaged, and that as a present, before his arrival in France, &c., proved a source of great embarrassment and difficulty, alarmed the French embassador for the interest and reputation of his Court, which he considered would be disagreeably affected thereby. He remonstrated to Congress on the subject, who passed a resolve that those supplies were received in the way of trade, and not as a present from the Court of France.

We doubt not but it will appear that Mr Dean has done much for and deserved much of his country, and that he will be properly considered.

The king's speech, with debates in Parliament as far as they have come to hand, the latest advices from the southward and West Indies, and the unhappy controversy that has arisen between the President and Council of this State and General Arnold are contained in the enclosed newspaper, to which we refer you.

The rate of exchange for bills on France, as sold by Mr Holker, their agent, is £900 Continental money for £100 sterling.

Authentic intelligence has been received in Congress from Europe of high importance, and in appearance far from being unfavorable to America, which we are not at liberty to communicate at present.

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With the highest esteem & respect, we have the honor to be

Your Excellency's most obedient and most hble. servants.

ELIPHALET DYER.
OLIVER ELLSWORTH.
JESSE ROOT.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

SILAS DEANE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, 13th Feb^y, 1779.

GOVERNOR TRUMBULL;

SIR, — I flattered myself when I wrote you last, that before this I should have closed my affairs in this City, but am still detained, and the slowness with which every thing of any importance proceeds almost discourages me and would put me beyond all patience, were it not that the prospect before us takes up my attention in a great measure. This, though it diverts my attention, increases my anxiety and distress. I will not trouble you, or any of my friends, with my particular affairs, while those of infinitely greater importance press so hard upon us. You have seen the King of Gr. Brittain's speech and the debates on it, & that the majority is as usual with the Minister, with this difference only that though the minority wish to displace the Ministers, they agree in pushing on the war, a very few excepted. This winter is now nearly spent, the negotiations between the armed & arming powers in Europe have been very important, and nearly interesting to these States, yet so far have we been from having any voice or influence in them that no measures have been taken even to know what they are, and the first knowledge we have, or probably shall have, of them will be from our enemies. All thoughts of conquest seem to be laid aside, and a new doctrine advanced

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which is, that if we will not accept the offers of accommodation and friendship, they will reduce and distress us to such a degree that our friendship will be of little or no service to others; on this diabolical principle the operations of the opening campaign will be carried on. I know it is generally & almost universally supposed here, that no reinforcements will be sent over. Our enemies on the contrary threaten us with numerous bodies of Russians, &c. I am well convinced, neither they nor we are in the right as to their reinforcements, but it is peculiarly unfortunate that their threatnings should increase our security & inattention. I will hazard my opinion on the subject; I shall be happy if events prove me to have been deceived. A reinforcement will be sent over to New York sufficient to recruit, and even to add to the established forces already there; a force of some consequence will be sent into Canada; the frigates & light cruisers will be greatly increased on our coasts, and a predatory war will be carried on, both on our frontiers & sea coasts, plundering or destroying whatever comes in their way, whilst at New York & Newport they will keep a body sufficient to fix the attention of all our regular forces. This mode of carrying on the war, our enemies flatter themselves will, with the low & sinking state of our money, the great & universal derangement which prevails in every one of our Executive Departments, effect their purposes. By accounts from Europe the English stocks have risen nearly six pr. ct. on an average since the declaration of France in our favor, and to the surprise of almost every one the Minister seems to find little difficulty in raising money. The spirit for reprisals on the French commerce is raised high by the success they have met with. They have a fleet in Europe equal if not superior to France, in the West Indies they at present appear to have a superiority. The failures in their commerce and manufactures, tho' not so con-

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siderable as was expected, helps the Minister for the present, both to men and money. Unemployed tradesmen turn soldiers, and timorous monied men put their money into the stocks rather than risque it in trade. The raising therefore of men & money easily is not a proof of the real thriving state of the nation, but the contrary, yet the consequences as to the war are much the same. France appears to be strengthning her marine, Sweden is about to assist her, Spain will probably join openly. This must turn the scale against England if effected in season, but if delayed any time, it is not so certain. The war or alliances on the continent of Europe do not appear so immediately to interest us, yet they must eventually affect us. Russia, Prussia, Denmark, and some of the lesser powers will probably take one side against Austria, the House of Bourbon, Sweden, and the Port on the other. There have been but few great wars in Europe, but that the first object has been lost sight of almost intirely in the course of the contest, and often wholly forgot at the pacification, and therefore I wish we may profit by reflecting on what has past in the world. I own to you I tremble for the consequences which our security, inattention, dissipation in the different Departments, & almost total loss of credit must produce. I am still more alarmed at the dangerous & destructive principle, which is unhappily prevailing in Congress and out, & which is that France having engaged with us must for her own interest carry us through. This is one cause of the dangerous security we have during the last six or eight months been gradually falling into; it is one cause why vigorous, decisive, & expeditious measures are not adopted for the redemption of our credit, the providing supplies for our army, and for the proper arrangement of every department. Sorry I am to say that I know of no department at present well arranged; not a member of Congress but will own the

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same, and lament over it, yet days and even weeks are spent in debates on subjects which scarcely merit one hour's serious attention; when members of Congress appear alarmed they quiet their fears & apprehensions with what alarms mine the most, France (say they) will help us out. What has been the great object of this war? Peace, liberty, & safety, which are only to be secured by our independance, and have we renounced all dependance on Great Brittain to become the dependant tributaries of another power? We never were so mad, yet to this, such a principle, & such a line of conduct as is at this moment pursued, visibly & inevitably leads. No man can have a higher opinion of the justice and public generosity of France than I have, few individuals have ever had greater cause to respect & esteem that nation than I have, but I must adopt the sentiment of Brutus, when writing to Cicero, it is not a question, says that true son of Liberty, who shall be my master, whither Anthony, Octavius, or another, I will have no master. I will not with my consent suffer my country to be dependant on any nation under Heaven, and if weak & wicked men reduce us to that fatal necessity, I will retire from it forever and seek a distant retreat, where if possible I may forget what I have seen and done. It gives me pain greater than any private suffering or misfortune could occasion to view the situation of our affairs as they actually are at this moment, and to look forward to the dreadful crisis to which they are rapidly hastening, without any effectual & consistent measures being taken to prevent it. Our paper has depreciated faster since the late resolutions of Congress, than in any preceeding period since its first emission, at least it is the case here and wherever I have heard from. It cannot long be a secret that we have no supplies for our army engaged in Europe that may be depended on. The little navigation we have is decreasing, whilst such is the state and man-

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agement of our marine, that the enemies cruisers of six, eight or ten guns only, venture boldly into this bay and river, and very few of our vessels escape them. But I might write a volume without exhausting the affecting subject; it may be thought impertinent in me to have said thus much; it cannot be so, however, to look at the causes of these evils, & examine by what means they may be radically cured. I saw, pointed out, and protested against the causes very early, when in Congress, & when they were but in their first stage. They have advanced since with the strides of a giant. The vesting the deliberative, legislative, and executive powers in the same body, was what appeared to me, at all times, as the last & most finished description of a defective, inconsistent, & dangerous system of government; — this and the neglecting to place our paper on proper & certain funds have been the radical causes of the evils we now complain of. It was impossible for members of Congress to attend & assist in the great Council of these States, and at the same time pay the necessary attention to the executive departments; hence neglect, frauds and peculation of every kind escaped without notice or punishment, and the delinquent had it but too often in his power to recriminate, on the neglect & inattention of those who employed him. The not funding in season our paper was almost the sole cause of its depreciation, and an uncertain medium of commerce inevitably destroys all commercial confidence and strikes deep at the very first principles of common honesty. The consequences are what we now experience, & what must forever naturally follow similar causes. The remedy of these evils is, I think, still in our power, how long they may be so, I know not, but if the present season is unimproved I think it will not long be so. Permit me to point out what they appear to me to be; let there be proper boards appointed for every executive branch of the business of these States,

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immediately under the inspection of and accountable to Congress. Congress will then be what they ought to be, the great deliberating Council of these States, and be at liberty to consult on great & general subjects only. Now, while our money is passing at twelve and even fifteen for one, & before it is engrossed by individuals, let there be a foreign loan negotiated and the paper bought up and cancelled. Ten million of dollars in silver would at this moment redeem the whole, and is it not better to have such a debt, which is nothing for these States to pay & cancel, than to have twelve times the sum against us for the payment of which our faith & honor are most solemnly pledged? I have with freedom given you my thoughts on the general causes of our public evils & of the remedy. I am not silent on the subject here, every one appears to agree in the same sentiments with me, yet little or nothing is done or attempted. It affects me not a little to see so many valuable and spirited officers disgusted and retiring from the service, and others persecuted with the most low & unrelenting virulence of party. Co^{l} Oswald, whose character has been not only unimpeached, but high as a brave, steady, & intelligent officer, has been superceeded and forced to retire; I think his case a hard one, and therefore mention it tho' but a private consideration in comparison with the great ones, which have been the subject of this long letter. I try at times to perswade myself that I look too much on the dark side of our affairs, and I shall be happy in being convinced by you, that it is really the case with me, and that things are better than I take them to be.

General maxims and rules are commonly true, tho' they have their exceptions; and there possibly may have been instances of States & nations acting designedly from other motives than those of their own immediate interest and emolument, but they are as rarely to be met with in the history of the world as the most unnatural of all pro-

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ductions whatever. Our alliance with France is expressly founded on mutual interest; in consequence of this alliance, France is expending her blood & treasure in a war with England; if so far from being able to assist her, we are by the mismanagement of our affairs reduced to call for substantial aid from her, without any prospect of an equivalent returned, the motive of interest ceases. If an equivalent is to be returned, what is it to be? It will be answered, our trade. But if our commerce is not to be free, we shall take on ourselves the very yoke we have been shaking off. And if our commerce is free, the best markets, let them be where they will, are sure to be preferred. Do not think I have the least distrust of our allies. I assure you on the contrary I have the fullest confidence in them, I esteem and respect them on every account, public as well as private. But my fears are of ourselves, arising from the dangerous situation in which we actually are, and the still more dangerous one which the present measures are plunging us into.

Your time is precious in proportion to your abilities and long experience, and I know how industriously you improve every part of it, in the service of our country. This consideration, which might seem to demand an apology from me for intruding so far upon it, is what has on the other hand urged me to write largely & freely to you on this subject, hoping that I might throw out something which you may improve to public utility. Whatever may be the situation of public or private affairs, I shall ever consider myself honored by your friendship & correspondence, and ever remain, with much respect and attachment,

Sir, your most obedient and very humᵉ servᵗ.

SILAS DEANE.

I have now but little prospect of leaving America before May; if in the meantime I can render you any services here I shall be happy to receive your commands.

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P. S. *April* 17th. I wished (for I cannot say I had much grounds to hope) that I should before this have had good reasons for writing in a different manner; but the depreciation of our money has increased, and the dissipation & derangement in the different Departments continued rising in proportion. Congress every day becomes more & more a changing body, the majority of its members have been changed repeatedly since the time of my being here. To have one sett of men to hear our cause and another to judge of it, is dangerous indeed for an individual; it is more so for the public. I am against members holding their seats too long, & prefer a rotation, but the rotation should be regular and general, or the worst of consequences must forever follow, as experience shews they do at present. A delegate to Congress ought to be supported equal to the dignity and importance of his character, and be left without excuse for quitting his public trust, whilst the most important affairs are depending, on any private considerations whatever. Three years is a period sufficiently long, nor is it too short, for a man to become master of the public affairs, but when some men attend regularly from one three years on to another, and by much the greater part of Congress cannot be induced to attend as many months at a time, must not such councils be fluctuating? and can a stable, well ordered system of government, capable of giving energy and vigor to the remotest parts of a wide extended empire, be expected to rise from a body constantly changing its members? Such a practice (for I cannot call it either plan, or system) leaves full room for faction to those who constantly attend in their places; and whilst it aims at comprehending every branch, & to execute every department of government, can never effect anything great & essentially beneficial to the united empire. Co^{l} Oswald will do himself the honor of delivering this, to whom I have given a small acc^{t} paid by me since my return; it is for

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papers I was ordered to procure in 1774 relating to the western lands. I received & forwarded them just before I left America, but the acc^{t} was not then given me. I have desired Co^{l} Oswald to receive the money on my acc^{t}, and pray that he may be directed where he is to apply for the same.

PETITION OF THE SELECTMEN OF PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS.

To His Excelency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Governor & Commander in Chief in & over the State of Connecticut, and the Honourable the Councill of said State,—

The Memoriall of the Selectmen of Plimouth, in the County of Plimouth & State of Massachusets Bay, humbly sheweth, that your Memorialists (as they have more than once intimated to your Excelency & Honours), on account of their scituation since the present war, have been & still are much distressed for want of provisions and bread in particular, and allthô thrô your goodness we have severall times been much releaved with provisions from your State, for which the inhabitants of our town think themselves under verry great obligations to you, in special for what you allow^{d} to be brought from your State to this town, in the little schooner Polley, Ephraim Bartlett master, a few weeks ago, which supply was verry seasonable, & a great releaf to many familys that had long been without bread, yet the quantity we rec^{d} by s^{d} schooner, being but a small supply for the many inhabitants of this town, has been consumed a considerable time since, and we are now in a verry malloncolly scituation, their being many families, (that in other respects are reall good livers,) that han't now, nor have not had for many days, a quart of bread corn in their houses, and know not where to gett any; that being the scituation of people that are good circumstances for gett^{g} a livelyhood, we leave you to judge what must be the scituation of a

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great many poor familys that even in better times could scarcely procure their bread from day to day.

This being our scituation, alltho we are verry loth to be troublesom, we are impell[d] to most earnestly beg the favour of your Excelency & Honours, that you would permit our frind Cap[t] Ephraim Bartlett, of the schooner Lively, to bring a load of provision and such other articalls from your State as he may desire, bread corn in particular, which will be an inexpressable kindness to this town, the poor & needy in special. We beg leave to mention one circumstance that we have lately been informd of, viz[t], that your Excelency & Honours have had great reason to fear that a considerable part of those provisions that you have been so good as to permit to be brought out of your State, for the necessary supplys of these Eastern States, has by designing men, enimies to our country, been carry[d] to our enimies on Rhode Island & else where, we beg leave hereby to assure you that you need not be under the least fears that our frind M[r] Ephraim Bartlett, or his owners, would act so base a part, both he & they having given us the strongest assureances, even under their hands, that they will use every means in their power to geet to this town all the provisions that you may think proper to allow them to bring from your State. Relying on the humanity & goodness of your Excelency & Honours that you will grant our request, your Memorialist beg leave to subscribe themselves your oblig[d] & verry humble serv[ts].

EPH[M] SPOONER,
WILLIAM CROMBIE,
JAMES DREW,
ISAAC SYMMES,
Selectmen of Plimouth.

PLIMOUTH, Feb[y] 15[th], 1779.

N. L., 9[th] March, 79.

Permit Cp[t] Bartlet to pass the Fort.

SAM[L] H. PARSONS, *B. G.*

Indorsed: 15[th] Feb[y], 1779. Selectmen of Plimouth, *de* want of Grain, rec[d] 29[th] March p[r] Cap[t] Bartlet.

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ISAAC LOTHROP* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, in Lebanon, Connecticut.

PLYMOUTH, February 15th, 1779.

HONR SIR, — As the bearer Capt Bartlett is bound to your parts for the purpose of procuring supplies of grain for the suffering & much distressed inhabitants of this town, and as I have the honour of a share in the accquaintance of your Excellency & worthy family, I have presumed to address you on a subject so painfull to me that I can scarcely forbear weeping at the bare naming it. Scarce a day or an hour passes but my ears are saluted with the bitter cries of numbers of our inhabitants for bread, many of whom are & have for some time been entirely destitute of that article. In short, Sir, I do believe, if all the grain of every kind in this place was equally divided amongst its inhabitants it would not subsist them one week ; some few vessells indeed have gone from hence to the Southern governments for supplies, but if they should be so fortunate as to escape the enemy, its uncertain (from the accots we have) what their success will be. We have all along been informed that the crops of corn in your State were uncommonly good, but from what cause it is so little of it has found its way hither I cannot say. I pray & intreat your Excellency would afford Capt Bartlett your friendly aid & advice, that he may not return empty handed; the peculiar circumstances of this town and its inhabitants must plead in excuse for my thus troubling your Excellency, surrounded (as you doubtless are) with numerous cares of publick &

* Isaac Lothrop was born in Plymouth Dec. 11, 1736, O. S., was educated in his native town, and afterward spent about nine years in Boston, when he returned to Plymouth, "where he spent the remainder of his life, first as a merchant; but from the year 1778 he confined himself to his official duties, as register of probate for the county." He was elected a member of the Historical Society in Oct., 1791, his name standing second on the list after the ten original members. See 2 Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. i. pp. 258–260. — EDS.

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most important concern. I cannot close this letter, Sir, without once more intruding on you my most earnest sollicitations in behalf of this distressed people, not doubting, from the knowledge I have of your Excellency's great benevolence & humanity, you will so far condescend, by your interest & influence, as to put Cap^{t} Bartlett in some way whereby he may be enabled to procure us relief, which will be ever acknowledged with the greatest gratitude. My brother, the Doctor, with his wife join me in our most respectfull compliments to you & your good family. With very great sincerity & the most profound regard, I beg leave to subscribe,

Your Excellency's most obedient & m^{o} hble. serv^{t}.

ISAAC LOTHROP.

Indorsed: 15th Feb^{y}, 1779. M^{r} Isaac Lothrop's Letter, *de* necessitys of Plymouth for Grain, rec^{d} p Cap^{t} Bartlett, 29th March, 1779.

JAMES WARREN* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^{r}, Lebanon.

BOSTON, Feb 20th, 1779.

SIR, — The great distress of the town of Plymouth which is not only threatned with, but actually suffering, a famine of bread must apologize for the trouble I now give you, to engage your humanity in favour of a town oppressed with so great a calamity. Many of the inhabitants of that town who have been used to an afluent living have been for weeks destitute of bread, which, in addition to their peculiar sufferings from a total loss of their cheif dependance for a subsistence, renders their case truly pitiable. I am informed they are now sending

* James Warren was born in Plymouth Sept. 28, 1726, graduated at Harvard College in 1745, and became a successful merchant and a conspicuous leader on the popular side during the Revolution. He married a sister of James Otis, and died in his native town Nov. 27, 1808. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. vi. p. 364. — EDS.

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Cap^{t} Eph. Bartlett in a schooner with a cargo of West India goods to the State of Connecticut, flattering themselves with hopes of a supply of grain by her return. If your Excellency will countenance this attempt by your assistance you will exhibit to the world an instance of your benevolence, & greatly oblige the inhabitants of that town. I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, your Excellency's most obe^{t}, humb^{l} serv^{t}.

J. WARREN.

His Excellency JON^{A} TRUMBULL, Esq^{r}.

Indorsed: 20th Feb^{y}, 1779. James Warren, Esq^{r}, *de* Plimouth, want of Grain, rec^{d} 26th inst^{t}.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO THE DELEGATES FROM CONNECTICUT.

LEBANON, 22nd February, 1779.

GENTLEMEN, — Your letter of the 11th instant by M^{r} West came to hand this day at noon. M^{r} Trumbull hath been unwell; by divine favor is recovered; at several times set hath been hindered going his journey to Philadelphia, — as is the case this morning, by very heavy rains. He intends setting out to-morrow. By him have the opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of yours. Am sorry to find Confederation is procrastinated. I find Maryland hath something plausible to say. I wish that obstacle was removed, yet think they might rely on what hath been already done by Congress on that head. If the matters they mention were settled it would be well. That must be a work of time. A delay of Confederation is very detrimental.

I wish to have the resolutions relative to the army transmitted by the earliest opportunity. You will observe what is done by this State for the officers and soldiers of the Connecticut line. Pray see to it that our

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case and grants be not made a handle to leave a heavy expence upon us seperately.

The State of Rhode Island have recieved a grant for seven thousand bushels of grain to be carried from hence thither, with a brief throughout this State for the sufferers driven from the island of Rhode Island, which will raise both money and grain for their relief. Have received nothing from the President on that or any other head.

I thank you for the communications contained in the newspaper you enclosed.

I hope the event will prove the important intelligence received by Congress to be favorable to America.

If a day of fasting and humiliation is to be observed this spring throughout the United States, pray let me know it seasonably, that our anniversary fast may be on the same day. We have had abundant reasons for thanksgiving; have we not also for humiliation and fasting? The most high and supreme director of events hath respect to the humble and contrite cries and prayers of those who tremble at his word and providence, of them who fear, love, and serve him.

The letters addressed to Sam[l] Gray, Esq[r], or Mad[m] Dyer, and to Nathanael Wales, Esq[r], are forwarded. Col[o] Dyer's family are well, except Jabez; he is in a very declining state. M[r] Root's family were well last Saturday. His son in captivity M[r] Shaw is desired to use his best endeavours to get exchanged.

I am, with esteem & regard, gentlemen,

Your obedient, hble. servant.

JON[TH] TRUMBULL.

Hon[ble] Delegates from Connecticut.

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BELA HUBBARD* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Lebanon.

NEW HAVEN, Feb^y 23^d, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, —

Presuming on your Excellency's known humanity, I beg leave to wait on your Excellency in this way, by my friend M^r Henry Van Dyck, to solicit your Excellency's favor in a matter that concerns me greatly. The Reverend Doctor Inglis of the City of N. York, for the relief of a poor brother clergyman, was so kind as to procure a permit & send out the last week as a present to me a suit of clothes & sundry small articles for my spouse, to the amount (as I am informed) of about ten pounds lawful money; trifling & inconsiderable as the amount may appear, to me a poor clergyman they are valuable, as they are much needed. They were taken & detained at our lines at Horseneck by the commander on that station; would your Excellency be so kind as to give a single line to the commander there to deliver to me the above articles, you will lay a great obligation upon your Excellency's most humble & very obedient servant.

BELA HUBBARD.

Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 23^d Feb^y, 1779. Rev^d Bela Hubbard, *de* M^r Van Dyke his present from N. York, rec^d 25^th ins^t p M^r Van Dyke.

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* Rev. Bela Hubbard was born in Guilford, Conn., Aug. 27, 1739, and graduated at Yale College in 1759. After graduating he studied theology with Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson, and for a time served as a lay reader to the Episcopalians in his native town. In 1763 he went to England, and was ordained there in the following year. On his return he officiated at Guilford, Killingworth, and New Haven. "On the approach of the Revolution he remained loyal to the King, but conducted himself with so much discretion that he was not subjected to any serious embarrassment." He died in New Haven Dec. 6, 1812. See Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 557-559. — EDS.

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TITUS HOSMER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. P Henry VanDyke.

MIDDLETOWN, Feb^{y} 24th, 1779.

SIR, — The bearer, M^{r} Henry Vandike of Stratford, waits upon your Excellency to request permission to go for England, to obtain orders as an Episcopal clergyman; he hath officiated as a reader at Stratford for some time past, & as the church is vacant, it is probable they will be desirous of having him for their minister.

I was formerly well acquainted with M^{r} Vandyke & always esteemed him as a man of good morals, strict integrity, of a mild disposition, & benevolent manners; more lately my acquaintance with him hath been in a great measure interrupted. I have heard nothing to induce me to alter my opinion of him, tho I am obliged in justice to say that I believe he hath not fully concurred in his political sentiments with his countrymen in general in the dispute with Great Britain.

Whether your Excellency will permit any persons to go from this State upon the errand M^{r} Van Dyke proposes, is not for me to judge, but if any one is permitted M^{r} Van Dyke would personally stand as free from objection in my view as any gentleman I am acquainted with.

I am, Sir, your Excellency's most obedient,
humble servant.
TITUS HOSMER.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 24th Feb^{y}, 1739. Titus Hosmer, Esq^{r}, *de* M^{r} Hen. Van Dyke, rec^{d} 25th inst.

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SAMUEL H. PARSONS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

New London, 27th Feby, 79.

Sir, — My command here having led me to a consideration of the measures necessary for the defence of this post, I hope it will not be tho't arrogant in me, or a departure from the line of my duty, to submit the following facts and observations to the consideration of your Excellency and the Council.

Fort Griswold at Groton is situated on the height of the hill and is commanded by no ground within cannon shot, and, in conjunction with the battery near the water and one about S. E. from the fort (both which are commanded by the fort), clears all the hollow grounds by which the enemy can make any near approach to that fort; and, with the addition of a demi bastion at the N. E. corner, will be able to make a good resistance against any attempt the enemy may make upon this work, if a proper supply of ammunition and provisions are lodged in the fort to furnish the garrison. Little more is necessary to compleat the defence on this side.

Fort Trumbull is commanded by a range of hills in the rear and on the right which overlook the fort, and at so small a distance as to render it indefensible for an hour after the enemy have possesd those heights with cannon; besides which the ledges and detachd hills behind this fort afford a safe approach to a large body of the enemy within almost pistol shot of the fort, without a possibility of returning a single shot from the fort to any advantage. Nor do I find it possible to secure this work from attempts which may be made in either way, without a cost which can scarcely be estimated. The walls in the rear of this fort must be raisd at least sixteen feet higher than at present, to secure the men on the platforms from the enemy's fire from the high lands on the back of the fort.

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Two or three of the sides of this are enfiladed by no other part of the work, that the enemy might be perfectly secure even under the walls of the fort. One or two bastions or demi bastions must be constructed to remove this difficulty, and I think the work must now be laid in lime or it will not long indure a fire from the hill; the walls at present aford no security whatever to any men posted there, and it now serves no purpose but a water battery.

Upon examination there does not appear to me any ground so advantageous as to give such manifest advantage as to warrant a small body of men to attack a very superior force in their advance from the light house to town.

On these considerations, Sir, I am convinc[d] of the necessity of an inclos[d] work on the hill near the house now occupied by Jer. Miller, Esq[r]. This place so commands Fort Trumbull that no enemy can possibly hold that fort whilst we are in possession of the hill. This principal work, with two small circular batteries under the command of the work, will, I think, effectually prevent the advance of the enemy by any rout they might otherwise take to possess this commanding height; and these can be erected with much less expence than Fort Trumbull can be finish[d], and will answer better purposes than that fort can ever be made to answer.

The objection generally made, with great propriety, against multiplying works from a necessity of dividing our force, does not hold with any great weight in this case, because the batteries, if this propos[d] work is erected, will require no more men than will work the guns, and they are effectually coverd by the main work which overlooks the whole within point blank shot. I have inclos[d] a very imperfect plan of the propos[d] works, which, however, may aford some assistance in considering the matter.

I find fifty eight cannon at this post, from 4 to 18

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pounders, including those on travelling carriages, these upon a medium will consume 4^{lb} of powder at one charge, the number of rounds which you will expect to be us^{d} must be at or near the place where they are wanted or they can be of no service. Musket cartridges for 1,000 men, I think, ought to be lodg^{d} in the two forts, and provisions for five or six days ought to [be] lodg^{d} in the forts, because twill be impossible to furnish those supplies when the Fort[s are] invested. On an averidge about 20 cartridges can be made from 1^{lb} of powder; allowing sixty rounds to the men in the fort 1½ tons of powder is necessary for the musquet cartridges, and about 4 or 5 tons for the cannon; if these ideas should be adopted 500 or 600 militia will be necessary as soon as they can be drafted, that the work may be begun without delay, indeed the prospect of a descent from Long Island will render this measure expedient.

[*Cætera desunt.*]

Indorsed by Gov. Trumbull: 27th Feb^{y}, 1779. General Parsons.

HENRY VAN DYCK* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esquire, Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the State of Connecticut in America.

The Petition of Henry Van Dyck, of Stratford, in said State most humbly sheweth —

That your Excellency's petitioner has for more than five years declined every kind of business and wholly

* Rev. Henry Van Dyck (or Van Dike) was born in New York in 1744, and graduated at King's (now Columbia) College in 1761. He moved to Stratford, Conn., where he studied and practised law. He afterward studied for the ministry. In August, 1769, he married Huldah Lewis, and had by her several children. He is perhaps best remembered as one of the three clergymen first ordained by Bishop Seabury, in 1785. He subsequently became the rector of several churches, and died in the city of New York September 17, 1804. See History of Stratford, part ii. p. 1320; New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, vol. xxx. — Eds.

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devoted himself to the study of Divinity, in order to prepare & qualify himself for the sacred ministry conformable to the rites & ceremonies of the Episcopal Church, from a conscientious persuasion of its being a true one; and your petitioner being anxiously desirous of ordination in that Church most humbly begs leave to ask your Excellency's permission to proceed to England by the way of New York for the purpose of obtaining Holy Orders.

Your petitioner begs your Excellency to consider that in consequence of his not being in Orders he has been subjected to very heavy taxes, which has greatly reduced him, & are now become so burthensome that he must with a wife & three small children sink into absolute ruin & distress, which he has no way to prevent, unless your Excellency will grant him his reasonable request.

Your petitioner begs leave further to ask your Excellency in what way or manner the vacant Episcopal Churches in this & the other States are to be supplyed, unless requests of this kind are granted by those who have authority & power within the several States? Must the professors of the Episcopal Churches that are become vacant be left intirely destitute of Divine ordinances agreable to their consciences? Must those that are now filled enjoy the invaluable blessings no longer than the lives of their present pastors? Will not a refusal in this case, may it please your Excellency, amount to a *denial* to that *Church* of that religious liberty, which in all free & civilized states has been ever tolerated & encouraged?

Your petitioner therefore most earnestly solicits your Excellency to take his humble & reasonable request into consideration & lay the same before your Council-Board if expedient, that permission may be given him as quick as possible to proceed to England for the purpose aforesaid, and at the same time requests that it may not be considered as proceeding from any views inconsistant

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with the true interests of this or the other States, for whose peace he will ever pray, but from a real desire he has of being serviceable to his fellow-creatures. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

HENRY VAN DYCK.

STRATFORD, this 1st day of March, 1779.

WILLIAM TRYON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

FORE POST, KING'S BRIDGE, 7th March, 1779.

SIR, — By the opportunity of an exchange of prisoners, I send you some publications of the loyal City of New York; I should be glad to have your papers and those to the eastward regularly, and will with your consent as punctually send you those published here. We profess to keep nothing secret but our military operations; and we should be happy if a prudent and sensible moderation on your side would give us occasion to make them unnecessary. We fight for a safe, an honorable union of the empire, you struggle for a seperation, ruinous to both countries; for my part I am willing with Governor Johnson to stand in the last ditch, to prevent that *calamitous* event.

I am, Sir, yr obt servt.

Wm TRYON. *Govr, &c.*

To Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 7th March, 1779. Govr Tryon, *de* publications of the loyal city of N. York, desires our & ye Eastern papers, no secrets save military operations, they fight for honble Union; we for seperation; ruinous to both. Willing wth Govr Johnston to stand in the last ditch. Recd wth papers & procln inclosed, 16th instt.

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WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Publick Service. His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Gov^r of the State of Conecticut, Lebanon. W. Greene.

PROVIDENCE, 9th March, 1779.

SIR, — This will be handed your Excellency by William Rhodes, Esq^r, High Sheriff of the County of Providence, whome you will see by the enclosed resolve of our Council of War they have sent express to borrow the sum of twelve thousand pounds lawful money, to be appropriated towards reinlisting the brigade of this State's troops now doing duty at Tivertown, whose times expire on the 16th instant.

Your Excellency doubtless remembers that by the Convention held at Springfield the New England States were to keep up five thousand men at least, for the defence of this State, so long as the enemy continues on the Island of Rhode-Island; notwithstanding which we have not a man from any of the New England States, except the Continental troops who do not exceed two thousand men, although the enemy are suppos^d to be able to muster about seven thousand on said Island; provided we can procure the money we have a good prospect of reinlisting a considerable part of the troops now in our pay.

If it be in your power to assist us with the sum of money we want, I doubt not of your readiness to comply therein and that you will give the bearer all the dispatch possable; we have sent to Boston for hiring a sum, and shall exert every ability to accomplish the end within this State. Our Treasurer will be enabled to repay the money by the middle of April next; and if the money should be wanted much before, Gen^l Sullivan has given us assurances that he will supply the money out of

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the military chest, which he expects will be supplied spedily.

I am, with every sentiment of respect,
Your obedient, humble servt.
W. GREENE.

Indorsed: 9th March, 1779. Govr Greene, *de* loan of £12,000 to that State. Recd & Answd 10th instt.

RESOLVES OF THE COUNCIL OF WAR OF RHODE ISLAND.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, &c. In Council of War, March 9th, 1779.

Whereas from the stoppage of the two emissions of Continental money emitted in May, 1777, and April, 1778, it so happens that the Treasury of this State is nearly exhausted of money that is passable; and Whereas it is absolutely necessary that a sum not exceeding twelve thousand pounds should be procured to pay the bounties of the soldiers now to be enlisted for the defence of this State in particular, and ye other United States in general;

Tis therefore Resolved that Joseph Clarke, Esqr, General Treasurer of this State, be empowered and directed to hire a further sum of twelve thousand pounds lawful money on interest, and that he give assurances that the same shall be repaid out of the first money that shall be paid into his office out of ye tax payable ye 15th of April, 1779.

Tis further Resolved that William Rhodes, Esqr, High Sherriff of the County of Providence proceed to Connecticut with all speed, and their apply to His Excellency Governor Trumbull and his Council of Safety, and request them in the name of this Council that they would lend the sum of twelve thousand pounds out of their Treasury assuring them that ye service of ye publick will be thereby

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much served, and that the same shall be repaid in one month from the date; that he take a note with him duly signed and executed by the General Treasurer for that purpose.

Tis further Resolved that his Excellency Governor Greene write a letter to Governor Trumbull on the subject, letting him know y^e^ urgency of the case and requesting that the Sheriff may be dispatched as soon as possible.

By order. W^m^ CODDINGTON, *Clerk.*

WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PROVIDENCE, March 11^th^, 1779.

SIR, — As the season of the year now approaches in which we may expect the enemy to act offensively, we are under the strongest necessity of calling upon our sister State of Connecticut to fulfil the agreement entered into [at] Springfield by the New-England States, for keeping up an army for the common defence against the enemy posted at Rhode Island. Their army is strong and well appointed. It now consists of fourteen regiments, amounting to near 6,000 effective men.

The Continental troops in this Department do not exceed two thousand men. The brigade raised by this State the last year will be disbanded in a few days, as the term of their inlistments expires on the 16^th^ instant.

The General Assembly have ordered a brigade to be raised of 1,500 men, officers included, and have granted a generous bounty and ample subsistence; and we have reason to hope that we shall reinlist a considerable part of the same men immediately, but you must be sensible, Sir, that if the brigade was completed, the whole force in this State, without assistance from the other New England States, is utterly inadequate to making a defence against the army upon Rhode Island.

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Our exertions much exceed our abilities; but as it is our great misfortune to have the enemy in the very bowels of the State, and we are daily in danger of being totally ruined, we have strained every nerve to fulfil that agreement. As on every occasion we shall give all the assistance in our power to any of our sister States when invaded, so we cannot entertain a doubt but that the State of Connecticutt will immediately raise and order to march the number of men stipulated as her quota by that agreement, to oppose the enemy in this State, more especially as Congress have approved and strongly recommended it to the several New England States punctually to comply with it.

We address similar letters to our sister States of Massachusetts-Bay and New Hampshire, and hope for favourable returns as soon as possible.

I request you, Sir, to lay this application before the General Assembly of your State, if it be sitting, or otherwise before the Council, and am in behalf of the General Assembly, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient
and most humble servant.

W. GREENE.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 11th March, 1779. Govr Green, *de* our quota for that State, recd 25th instt p post. Bushnel.

SAMUEL H. PARSONS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. To His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. Pr express.

LYME, 24th March, 79.

SIR, — In consequence of Genl Putnam's orders I yesterday left the command I had at New London, being releivd therein by Colo Johnson, and was proceeding to camp to join my brigade when the accounts brot by Capt

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Henman, which also have been forwarded to your Excellency, were sent me by express to this place. Our offensive operations are now effectually changed to defensive, and very little time remains to put the town of New London into such a state as will give any hopes of its being effectually defended; I am still of opinion that the hill back of Fort Trumbull must be securd to give the most distant hope of security. Under these circumstances I must again urge the necessity of an immediate attempt to secure it in the best manner the short time before the enemy will probably make their attack, will admit of; men for this purpose, the necessary orders from your Excellency, are yet wanting. Spare ammunition is not provided. On the whole we are in a state which afords me very little hope of preventing the enemy from destroying the town. Providence by the storm has destroy^{d} great part of their transports which, I have no doubt, were design^{d} to bring over the troops from the Island; this afords us a little more time to attend to this important matter, but no time to loose if we design to secure the town. I am at a loss whither I can return consistant with my orders. I wish to be there should the attack be made, if I could be of any service: I believe I shall go back & see for myself what the state of matters now are; thô I have no command, perhaps Col^{o} Johnson will wish to see me on this occasion. If your Excellency thinks it my duty to stay under present circumstances, I beg the favor of a line by the return of express, & also that you will write General Putnam that I may not be censurd by my delay to return. I have sent for Bushnell to see if we can dislodge the ship which is now said to block up the harbour.

I am, y^{r} Excellency's obed^{t} serv^{t}.

Sam^{l} H. Parsons.

Indorsed: Lyme, 24 Mar., 79. B. Gen^{l} Parsons, *de* enemy coming to New London, rec^{d} & answ^{d} 25th p L^{t} Chapman.

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SAMUEL H. PARSONS AND JOHN TYLER* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Public Service. To His Excellency Governor Trumbull. Lebanon.

NEW LONDON, 26th of March, 1779.

SIR, — General Huntington having given orders to B. Gen[l] Tyler to confer with the officers here respecting the necessary preparations to defend Town Hill, he has according consulted the officers here; and we are unanimously of opinion that to secure that hill, which commands Fort Trumbull and opens the entrance into the town, it is necessary that an inclos[d] work sufficient for about three hundred men should be erected as soon as possible, which should be flank[d] by two batteries to clear the hollow grounds on the west and east sides of the hill; without these works we are of opinion Fort Trumbull is wholly indefensible against a land attack and that the supernumerary cannon and stores in that fort in its present state are altogether insecure; and that the state of the enemy is such as requires an immediate attention to erecting & securing the works on the hill. We suppose six hundred men ought to be immediately sent in, in case provisions can be furnish[d] for them, or such number as can be supplied; the necessary orders are issued for that purpose for the draft from the 3[d] brigade, but, Sir, as that brigade must furnish most of the troops who can be brought to oppose the enemy soon in case of an actual attack, we would propose to your Excellency's consideration whither the draft for the present purpose ought not to be in whole or in the greater part from other brigades, as the troops cannot march before your Excellency will have

* John Tyler of Preston, Conn., was commissioned as a Captain in the militia May 1, 1775, and in June, 1777, was promoted to be a brigadier-general. He served through the war. See Record of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, pp. 99, 430. — EDS.

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time to give such further directions to Gen[l] Tyler as will be necessary in case any part of the draft from the 3[d] brigade is not to march. We hope your Excellency will give such directions respecting the furnishing provisions as will ensure a regular supply, without which they cannot be kept here many days. The appointing a person to furnish every necessary for carrying on the works will be exceedingly necessary, as well as furnishing intrenching tools of various kinds more than are now in the hands of the officer commanding here. We could have wish[d] Gen[l] Huntington would have attended to give such orders as he thinks necessary for the defence of the post which on any attack he will have the defence of; and that previous orders might have been issued to prevent the confusion which will necessarily ensue on an alarm, if previous directions are not given: the orders from Gen[l] Huntington are to consult and *do* what is necessary for the security of Town Hill; we think some more determinate directions are necessary. Your Excellency or the Council or some other person or body of men must have power to order the necessary supplies and approve or disapprove the plan of the works and order them to be erected; for this purpose, as well as other ends, we conceive it necessary that Gen[l] Huntington, or some gentleman properly authoris[d] for the purpose, should be present and give the necessary orders.

By the latest inteligence from Long Island the account of Gen[l] Clinton's being at Southampton seems to be confirm[d]; that about 200 or 300 men came with him, that a fleet was expected at Sagg Harbour from New York; that they continue the building boats at y[e] canoe place, that the fleet from Rhode Island consisted of 25 sail, of which about 16 are on shore; that the men in the fleet said they were bound to Sagg Harbour for wood, that the inhabitants say they were designd to take the troops on board; that the boats are designd to land troops; and that tis

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the general opinion of the inhabitants that an expedition against New London is intended and will shortly take place. Under these circumstances we are of opinion that an immediate attention to securing the post and giving the previous orders to the militia is necessary; and that the time Providence has furnish[d] for the occasion by the loss of their shipping cannot be better improv[d] than by a vigorous exertion to make such preparations as will cause the enemy to repent their temerity, should they make the attack. Nothing on our p[art] shall be wanting to forward your Excelle[ncy's] intentions; and every order receiv[d] will be chearfully obeyed by

Y[r] Excellency's obed[t], h[e] serv[ts].

SAM[L] H. PARSONS.
JOHN TYLER.

P. S. A return of the troops on this station is inclos[d]. Maj[r] Ledyard is now imploy[d] in making an abattis round Fort Griswold, which will add greatly to its security.

JAMES WADSWORTH* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Public Service. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. P[r] Express.

NEW LONDON, April 1[st], 1779.

SIR, — I got in here last evening, could not obtain any inteligence of the motions of the enemy later than those transmitted by Gen[l] Parsons. This morning, accom-

* James Wadsworth was born in Durham, Conn., July 8, 1730, and graduated at Yale College in 1748. In 1753 he was a Lieutenant in the militia, and in the Ticonderoga campaigns of 1758 and 1759 he held a Captain's commission. At the beginning of 1775 he was a Colonel, and the next year he was made a Brigadier-General. On the death of General Wooster he was promoted to be a Major-General, and he held that position until his resignation in May, 1779. Besides these military appointments he filled numerous civil offices. He was strongly opposed to the ratification of the Federal Constitution, "and not being able conscientiously to take the oath of fidelity to the new constitution, he retired thenceforth from public life." He died in Durham Sept. 22, 1817. See Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Yale Graduates, vol. ii. pp. 192, 193. — EDS.

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panied by Gen^{ls} Parsons & Tyler, Colo^{s} Throop, Johnson & Chapman, Maj^{rs} Ledyard, Walbridge & Peters, & M^{r} Mumford, viewed the ground on Town-Hill & Fort Trumbull, find the latter in a very unfinished & incomplete state & much overlooked by Town-Hill. On consultation many great objections attend the construction of such works there as will be capable of defence any long time & covering Fort Trumbull; such as the want of proper tools, materials, forage for teams & the difficulties of calling men from their business at this season of the year, together with the want of cannon to defend the works, & the ease of passing round them into the town, &c. And there appeared to be different opinions on the expediency of erecting works. But not looking on myself at liberty to suspend them, the gentlemen agreed that the works to be erected on the Town-Hill consist of an inclosed fort (erected with fascines) large enough to contain three hundred men, fronting southward, with one redoubt on the right & one on the left. I have ordered a return of the tools to be made tomorrow morning, but from the best information from Maj^{r} Ledyard there may be about sixty or seventy spades & shovels, five or ten axes, a number by no means adequate to the service. Wish an order to be made for tools, with three doz^{n} billhooks to cut fascines, if the works go on, which (unless otherwise ordered) I shall begin as soon as Col. Throop's reg^{t} comes upon the ground, which expect will be this afternoon. Tho' I am informed many of them have left their affairs in most distressing circumstances, having little & some no forage for their cattle. Have wrote M^{r} Raymord* for ten draught horses for the field-pieces & have ventured to add forage, as none can be had here, as I am informed. Eight oxen will be wanted to assist in

* The person here, and in General Wadsworth's letter, *post*, p. 384, called Raymord, was without doubt John Raymond, of New London, see Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776–Feb., 1778, p. 357; *ibid.*, May, 1778–Apr., 1780, p. 389. — Eds.

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moving the twelve pounders. A quantity of musket cartridges are making here, which I shall order back to some proper place. Majr Ledyard wishes five hundred weight musket powder for cartridges as soon as may be. Can give no further information touching provisions than what you are possess'd of; suppose flower sufficient for ten or twelve days.

Genl Parsons has just recd a letter from Genl Putnam informing he shall not send any Continental troops to New-London at present; but shall send 300 to New-Haven, which if occasion require he may order on. Genl Parsons was going on to camp this day; but on receiving the letter concluded to go to Lyme, & that he would return on any emergency, & in case nothing extraordinary happened he would visit this place before he returned to camp.

Shall do every thing in my power for the security of this post, but am unhappy to find the works, on this side, will be of little or no consequence if an attack is made by land, & so are liable to be lost if the enemy come in force.

I am, with regard & esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedt, humbl servt.

JAMES WADSWORTH.

P. S. Three persons broke out here with the small pox yesterday & great difficulty will attend covering the troops.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 1st April, 1779. M. Gen. Wadsworth, *de* works on Town Hill, recd p express 2nd April, 4 o'clo. mane.

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WILLIAM GREENE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Publick Service. His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon. W. Greene.

PROVIDENCE, 5th April, 1779.

SIR, — I received your favor of the 29th of last month and noted the contents. Shou'd the enemy make a decent upon your State, and at the same time leave this so that we might be at liberty to go to the assistance of yours, or any other where the enemy may make their incroachments, I have not the least doubt of all possable aid being given from this.

Major General Sullivan left this post last week, since which Major General Gates has supplyed his place.

I am, with much esteem & regard,

Your obedient and most humble serv^t.

W. GREENE.

Indorsed: 5th April, 1779. Gov^r Green, *de* Assistance, &c., rec^d 7th inst.

JAMES WADSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On public service. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Hartford. P^r M^r Shaw.

NEW LONDON, April 5th, 1779.

SIR, — Yours of the 2nd inst. with the inclosed have been duly receivd. The prospect of an immediate attack on this post not being so great as had been apprehended, orders were given on Friday last to dismiss the alarm-list comp^ys of Col. Throop's reg^t, also the supernumerary officers have been permitted to return home. And there now remains here of that reg^t 252 privates, who are quartered in houses on the west side of the harbour, & on the road to Lyme, extending the distance of four or five miles, — a measure very detrimental to the service, tho' necessary to prevent the spreading of the small pox, which is daily breaking out among the inhabi-

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tants. Orders were sent out on Saturday last to Brig^dr Erastus Woolcot for three hundred men, & to Brig^dr Douglass for two hundred & fifty men, to carry on the works on Town-Hill, & proposed to detach fifty from Col. Throop's reg^t & dismiss the rest as fast as the other detachments shall come in. But take leave to submit to your Excellency's consideration whether it will be best to ratain any of that reg^t, as the whole were ordered & did march at this difficult season of the year, & those now here cannot yet return.

Inclosed you will recieve a N° of questions & answers which contain the latest intelligence I am possessed of; except that the master of a prize schooner taken by the *Revenue*, which arrived here yesterday, informs that eleven or twelve sail of small privateers are cruising in the Vineyard Sound & parts adjacent, had attempted to land at or near Dartmouth but were prevented. They give out that they are victualled for thirty days & have licence to plunder on the coast during that time. The want of tools will occasion unavoidable delays in carrying on the works here, have employed persons to make some; being informed it was probable there were some at Norwich, wrote Gen^l Huntington on the 3^rd inst., but have not receiv^d any tools or advice touching the same. When the tools shall be procured applications for fatigue rum will be a certain consequence, whether any is to be had, how & in what quantities delivered, must beg your direction. Gen^l Parsons is gone to the westward; and I believe Gen^l Tyler will go home this day or tomorrow.

This goes by M^r Shaw, with whom I lodge & have conversed largely, to whom must take leave to refer your Excellency for further particulars.

I am, with great esteem & regard,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humb^e serv^t.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL. JAMES WADSWORTH.

Indorsed: 5^th April, 1779. Maj^r General Wadsworth, *de* Troops at New London, rec^d 6^th inst vespere, p Mr. Shaw.

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EDWARD HALLAM TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Hartford.

NEW LONDON, Ap^{l} 5, 1779.

SIR, — I rec^{d} a letter from M^{r} Colt, informing me of the difficulty of procuring flour. I have extracted from his letter what relates to it, & sent your Excellency for perusall; it is as follows "Ap^{l} 3. 1779. I flatter my self you will not have the militia long to feed, if you do & the State will not pass a law to seize bread, we shall possitively refuse supplying them." If I am not mistaken, your Excellency informed me that M^{r} Colt had offered & engag^{d} to supply all the troops at this place. It is impossible for me to procure it, under the present circumstances. If I should be able to purchase it for the State, the embarrassments it is subjected to by every one that pretends he is a purchasing commissary for the continent, would weary any person's patience. Considerable part of M^{r} Hilhouse purchase was taken away by M^{r} Read & Silleck, P. Commiss., & by Gen^{l} M^{c}Dougall; so that I have no expectations from that quarter.

I must beg your Excellency to inform me in what manner & from what stores the militia here are to be supply^{d} with fatigue rum. I have none on hand, & if they are to be supply^{d} from the stores of this State, wish to be informed how I can procure supplys of money to pay for it. I can get no money from the Treasury on the orders from the pay-table, nor have I rec^{d} one hundred pounds in cash from the Treasury this six months; but have been oblig^{d} to sell & barter State notes & Treasury orders so long that I cannot get any thing. I have drained my self of all the cash I have or can get, & have order in exchange which will procure nothing. I am

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sorry to trouble your Excellency with continuall complaints, but cannot help it.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,
Your Excellency's
Most humble & obt servt.
EDWARD HALLAM.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: N. London, April 5th, 1779. Mr Edward Hallam, *de* Flower, Fatigue Rum, recd 10th instt.

JAMES WADSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Public Service. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Hartford.

NEW LONDON, 6th April, 1779.

SIR, — A fleet from the eastward appeared yesterday afternoon to the southward of Fisher's Island, beating to the westward. The wind & tide being against them they did not pass this harbour until early this morning, when they were discovered standing westward, & when last seen were supposed to be up with Brown's Hill, a little to the westward of Plumb-Gut. The fleet consists of about twenty-five sail, but the weather being hazy an accurate observation of them could not be taken, but from the best we were able to make, there appeared to be two or three ships of force, one of them large carrying a flag, & frequently firing guns supposed to be signals. Have no intelligence of the enemy on Long Island later than what was transmitted in my last. Enclosed you will recieve an extract from Mr Colt's letter addressed to Mr Hallam, which I enclose for consideration.

Wish not to trouble your Excellency with a long list of disagreeables, but, to prevent blame in not faster executing the works for defence, must inform, that on application to Mr Holt, a Deputy Q. M. here in the Continental line for teams, he says he cannot procure hay unless impressed, nor teams unless he will pay a certain price;

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the hay at two hundred dollars p^r^ ton; that he has not money to pay for the same, nor is authorised to agree for a certain price to be paid for the use of a team. No hay is procured for the draft horses, nor can it be unless at the most extravagant price. I applyed to M^r^ Raymord, who was appointed to provide draft horses at this place, who informed me he could not procure them except by warrant. On a representation of the necessity we might be under of having them, he applied to Esq^r^ Wait for a warrant, but having lost the copy of his appointment, M^r^ Wait declined giving a warrant. Notwithstanding am determined to make every reasonable effort to secure the safety of this place.

I am, with great esteem & regard,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

JAMES WADSWORTH.

P. S. M^r^ Hallam, State Com^y^ & A. Com^y^ of Issues for the Contin^t^, doubts the propriety of delivering Cont^l^ rum (in case he should recieve any) to the fatigue men employed in erecting new fortifications by your advice & direction.

His Excellency Gov TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 6^th^ April, 1779. Maj^r^ General Wadsworth, *de* fleet, went westwd. Teams. Price of Hay. For warrant, rec^d^ 10^th^ inst.

JEREMIAH WADSWORTH* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HARTFORD, April 6, 1779.

SIR, — Since I rec^d^ your Excellency's orders to furnish provisions for the troops that were to be assembled at

* Jeremiah Wadsworth was born in Hartford, Conn., July 12, 1743, and died there April 30, 1804. He was a deputy commissary under Joseph Trumbull, and afterward Commissary General of Purchases, and served as commissary for the French army until the close of our War of the Revolution. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1786 to 1788, and a member of the House of Representatives under the Constitution from 1789 to 1795. See Memorial History of Hartford County, vol. i. pp. 655, 656; Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. vi. p. 312. — EDS.

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New London, I have taken every legal measure to obtain wheat, rye, flour or corn, but with so little success that I can hardly say I have obtained any, & I am certain from the experiments I have made that their is no possibility of obtaining any quantity, and it will be utterly out of my power to supply the militia of the State if call'd out. The scarcity is so great that it is with great difficulty the Continental troops in this State & the State of Rhode Island are fed, and they have been entirely out several times, & I fear those at New London are this moment without bread. The persons I have employed in trying to execute the law for seizing wheat & flour inform me of very considerable quantities which are with held but do not come within the law, & from them and many others I have the fullest assurance that much wheat, flour & other grain is daily carried out of the State for private use. There is reason to believe that much of the corn bought up in this State is not applied to the use of the distressed inhabitants for whom it is pretended to be purchased, & so long as it is allowed to be shipped here for other parts of the State their is no possibility under the present regulations to prevent its being carried to the enemy. If it were possible to obtain bread for the army by the present law the expence is so great that the Treasury of the United States is not sufficient to pay for it. As an evidence of this I have annexed an account of three tons of flour seized & apprized. It has been confidently asserted that the Southern States abound in flour & wheat, & that the army can be easily furnished with bread from thence; this is a mistake. I have been as far south as Williamsburgh in Virginia, where the wheat is almost all destroyed by the weavil or fly. The Carolinas produce very little wheat, & have applied to my Deputy in Virginia for flour to feed the troops under Gen[l] Lincoln; the Convention troops at Charlotte Ville in Virginia, & their militia will consume all the wheat & corn in that State,

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and the crops in Maryland were short and have suffered much by the fly. Pensylvania & New Jersey have already been drain'd to supply our army & the French navy. New York has a very considerable quantity of wheat, & the Legislature of that State have passed a law which is now vigorously executing, and at present furnishes the troops in that State & this with all the bread they eat, but the abilities of that State are unequal to the supplies now drawn from them for any considerable time. The French Consul has occasion for a quantity of flour for their navy now in the West Indies, and expect to be furnished by the United States, and that fleet can have bread from no other quarter. From these facts your Excellency may see that every kernel of grain in the United States will be necessary for the ensuing campaign. I will not take up your time in relateing the misfortunes that have attended our attempts to import rice from South Carolina into the Eastern States, but every post brings me fresh accounts of the capture of the vessels employed in that service, and not one has yet arriv'd of the many sent out, the coasts being covered & the bays filled with privateers from the enemy.

I have substantial reasons to believe our demand for flour will be much greater than is at present suspected, & the want of magazines of that necessary article will be severely felt, and may prehaps be the only obstacle to our utterly exterpating the British army from this continent, in the course of the approaching campaign.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most ob^{t}, humble servant,

JERE^{H} WADSWORTH,

Com. Gen. P.

His Excell^{y} Governor TRUMBULL.

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SILAS DEANE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, May 30th, 1779.

SIR, — I did myself the honor of writing a long letter which I sent by Co[l] Oswald to which refer. What I have for some time foreseen and dreaded, is now arrived, or at the door. The imprudence of many gentlemen in Congress in February last in circulating thro. the continent reports that the most favorable intelligence had been received, and leading the people to believe that a peace might be obtained speedily, has been, & will be, attended with the most fatal consequences. Those gentlemen who by writing, or in conversation, have endeavoured to perswade the people that the war was nearly over, and that it was not in the power of our enemies to push another campaign with vigor, have most essentially injured America, whatever their real intentions might have been. I am not in the counsels of America; if I were, I should hold myself bound to protest publicly against such language, as well as against many other proceedings, of which I have to my inexpressible greif & disappointment been witness within a few months past. Our ally has no desire of continuing the war. It was no ambitious view which led his Most Christian Majesty to engage in it. The great object proposed by the alliance on the part of France was to render these States free and independant, and thereby separate them from Great Brittain forever, the consequence of which would be an increase of the commerce of France, and the preventing Great Brittain, at all times powerful at sea, from becoming so enormously superior on that element as to be able to give law to the world. The ambition of the King of France has for its objects the encouragement & perfection of arts, commerce, agriculture & population in his fertile and extensive dominions in Europe; the carrying these to that height which France is capable of will

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render his kingdom, without any acquisition of new territory, the most powerful, rich & happy empire in the world; and fortunate indeed is it for the subjects of France that they have a Prince who in the prime of life, counselled and directed by wise & experienced ministers, pursues the only road to true and solid glory. The King had reason to expect that the armament sent out last year for our releif would have effectually broken the British force in America, and forced that nation to consult her own true interest, by repressing her views of domination, in the acknowledgment of the independance of these States. This point obtained, it is evident from the treaty, and I am confident from my own knowledge of the disposition of the court, that France would demand nothing further, either from Great Brittain or America. This being the simple object in view, France wished to avoid if possible entering into the war at all, and most certainly cannot wish the continuance of it. If Great Brittain will not listen to reasonable and just terms, the allies of France must undoubtedly interpose and offer their mediation, and if rejected, their aid to France & these States against England. But it is easy to see that the allies of France will pay too great a regard to national justice to commit themselves actively in the war, before they know what terms are insisted on by each contending party. Thus situated it became necessary that America should explicitly say on what terms they would consent to a treaty of peace. For this purpose Congress were applied to early in February, & urged in the most freindly manner to loose no time in coming to their resolutions on this important subject; many honorable & encouraging proposals were, I am well informed, at the same time laid before them, and they were acquainted with the disposition of his Most Christian Majesty to peace, if to be obtained, with the security of our freedom and independance. History does

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not afford stronger instances of the generosity & kindness, I may say affectionate freindship, of one nation for another than those which have been exhibited by France toward us. God forbid, we should finally prove ungrateful, & may He forgive (for I confess, I cannot,) the wickedness of those, we have too many of them among us, who judging of every thing by what passes in their own hearts attribute every thing of this kind to interested and selfish views. The application was certainly seasonable & proper, and the situation of our affairs such as admitted of no delay in deciding explicitly. But to my astonishment & greif, nearly four months have elapsed and no decision obtained; whilst the continent has been in the meantime amused with general reports that Congress had receiv'd great & good news, and were lull'd into security, with the hopes of peace, whilst our enemies were meditating for us fire & sword, & all the horrors war and barbarity are capable of. I can assure you, Sir, that the ingratitude & injustice I have met with (and greater few individuals ever suffered under,) have no weight with me in comparison with this strange, unaccountable, & ruinous delay. The grounds for this delay are as unreasonable & unjust (if I am rightly informed,) as the consequences are terrible & distressing. I will say nothing at present on the state of our currency, only that the partial & temporizing measures taken to restore its credit have unfortunately effected what I warned the promoters of those measures of at the time, & clearly though ineffectually pointed out to them before the resolutions were taken. I declare that I have ever had the highest respect for Congress in general; I have the greatest personal esteem for the majority of its members, & most sincerely pity them in their present situation, counteracted & defeated by a minority, who uniformly persevere, under every circumstance, to support the interested & even family views of a few individuals.

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When we view our situation, one State intire in the possession of the enemy, the capital of another, & with it the whole State, threatened with the same fate, the enemy ravaging Virginia at pleasure, & hitherto without resistance, and waiting only for reinforcements, hourly expected, to sally from the capitals of two other States, New York & Rhode Island, and attempt the same on the whole New England coast; while in some parts, a real, in others, an artificial scarcity prevails, our money of almost no value, it is astonishing, & almost incredible, that men should sacrifice every thing to partial, interested and even family views; yet such unhappily is the case in too many instances, by the intrigues & artifices of a cabal, and that composed of a minority. I know not how I can at this time render greater service to my country than by publishing to the world what I have for ten months past been witness to. I have not been silent on the subject to you & to others in my private correspondance, for I consider the man who at this time holds a language which inspires security & brings on inattention does this country the most fatal mischeif. I know I may be supposed to be & set down as a person sowered by personal disappointments & ungrateful treatment; beleive me, Sir, thõ I have met with a large share of both, as I shall soon convince the world of, yet every pulse of my heart beats to the same tune as when I first started in this glorious cause, every favorable event revives me, therefore the present scene, & those opening, affect me most sensibly. I do not despise or think lightly of the enemy without, but I dread cheifly the enemy within, masked under the appearance of freindship and patriotism. In a word, unless there be an essential & radical change of measures, this country must suffer exceedingly; its national reputation, & honor will be blasted, and it will bleed at every pore. My love to my country, and justice to my brave & virtuous fellow citi-

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zens at large, oblige me to say thus much to you, out of the many things I should say to you could I have the honor of a personal interview. I am making out an exact & faithful narrative of my negotiations and proceedings whilst abroad, which I shall send you next week, just such as I delivered Congress five months since. I am sorry to be obliged to appeal to the public at large, but have the conscious pleasure of knowing that my conduct will bear the examination of the universe. I wish that of the cabal had been such as would have borne that of their constituents only. It is saying simply the truth that ever since the news of the treaty with France, effected principally by me, & the arrival of the armament from France, proposed and sollicited for solely by me, they have turned their whole attention to render both the one & the other unsuccessful, or at least they have sacrificed both, to the keeping in high office a man, declaredly disagreeable, and suspected by all foreigners, whither in high or low rank in life and office, — you can be at no loss to know who I mean; and the copy of my last letter to Congress will shew you that I have wrote to them with the same freedom as I now write to you. I will make no apology for my freedom or prolixity in my letters; did I hold you & your importance in less estimation than I do, I should use neither, but considering you fortunately at the head of one of the most virtuous & powerful States in America, of which I shall ever boast myself a native & a citizen, and having been honored with your freindship, I write without reserve whatever I conceive may be of service to the State to know, or of useful intelligence to you.

I have the honor to be, with the most sincere respect & attachment,

Sir, your most obedient and very hum^{l} serv^{t}.

S. DEANE.

Indorsed: 30th May, 1779. Silas Dean, Esq^{r}, *de* his Narrative to Congress — his fears — his detention, &c. rec^{d} 14th June, 1779.

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COMMITTEE OF FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT, TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Public Service. His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, att Lebanon. Free T. Burr. M^r Hilldrup is requested to forward this as soon as posible. T. Burr.

FAIRFIELD, July 2^d, 1779.

GENTLEMEN, — At a full Town Meeting yesterday we were appointed a Committee to write to your Excellency and Council of Safety, to inform you of our situation and request of your Excellency and Honors some assistance, if in your power. On Tuesday Co^l S^t John rec^d an account that the enemy at Lloyd's Neck, including many Tories who have gone from us, had prepared a fleet on purpose to harrass and distress our coasts during the busy season of harvest, and that they intended to come and plunder at Norwalk on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning; in consequence of which Co^l S^t John sent out some boats to keep a look out. About twelve o'clock they discovered the fleet and the alarm was given, and Co^l S^t John put himself in such a position as prevented their landing, notwithstanding the fleet consists of two topsail schooners, four sloops, with about 20 guns in the whole, and 200 men. Being disappointed of their expectations at Norwalk, they made for Compo, and were discovered by the guards about 2 o'clock, which occasioned an alarm with us; finding that they could not land there they put out and to appearance seemed as tho' they intended to return to the island. The people being pritty much beat out, part retired to their homes. About seven in the forenoon they bore away before the wind and stood directly in for Mill River; as it was very uncertain whether they wo'd attempt to land on the east or west side of the bay, we were reduced to the necessity of dividing our force, at least we on the east side did not think it prudent to send any to the west; accordingly

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planted ourselves, in number about 70 men, with the field piece, behind the banks on the shore, where we supposed they wo'd land.

The enemy first made for the west point of the bay, came too with springs upon their cables, within musket shoot of three houses and barns, which stand near the bank, immediately got into their boats and landed under cover of a very heavy firing from the fleet, and before our people could collect a sufficient number to oppose them set fire to the houses and barns. However our people were soon upon them, that they were not on shore more than 15 minutes. They stoped the fire from all the buildings, except one house and two barns which were burned. Immediately after they had reimbarked, they up sail and stood directly for the east point, where we were posted. As soon as they came within point blank shoot of the field piece they hove too, and prepared for action. As they had discovered our men, they made no move to man their boats for landing; when it was judged best to try them with the field piece. Capt Smedley, Leu^{t} Sturgis and a M^{r} Hazzard had the principle management of the piece. They fired with deliberation and good judgement and hulled them five or six times out of eight or nine shoot, and after returning us five or six shoot, we obliged them to sheer of and make the best of their way from us. After they had got out of the reach of our cannon, they stood of and on, till sundown. By this time, we had a considerable body of men collected, and not knowing but they designed further mischief, we doubled our guards, for 12 miles on the coast, and lay upon our arms till the latter part of the night, when the wind sprung up fresh at N. E. and the fleet pushed of. As it appears that the fleet is fitted out with express view to alarm and distress in the midst of a very busy season we dayly expect them again. Now, Gentlemen, what we request is, that the galley at Branford may immediately be ordered this way,

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which, in conjunction with Cap^{t} Hawley, who has taken the command of the sloop, would entirely prevent thee fleet [from] harrising us at this busy time. If she is not maned, there are volunteers enough this way.

If we have not some assistance speedily, we undoubtedly shall lose great part of our wheat & hay. We therefore beg your Excellency and Honors wo'd do what lays in your power to give us some relief.

We are, with due respect and esteem,
Your Excellency & Honors'
Most ob^{t} and very hum. serv^{ts}.

SAM^{L} SQUIRE,
JONATHAN STURGES, } *Com^{e}.*
THAD^{S} BURR,

P. S. We are in want of some three pound ball, grape shot, match rope, and flints, pray direct where we may have them. Yours, &c.

Indorsed: July 2nd, 1779. Committee of Fairfield, *de* their situation, requesting the sloop Guilford may be sent to their relief.

JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon. By M^{r} Lyman.

HIGH LANDS, 5 July, 1779.

DEAR SIR, — Your esteemed letter came to hand this day by Serj^{t} Lyman. I wish I could give you the particulars of affairs at the southward; there remains no doubt of our successes in that quarter, but no official letters have yet reached camp. It is not improbable the late embarkation at R. Island is designed that way. I hardly think the posts in these Highlands are the object. The acquisition upon a moderate calculation will probably cost them more men than they would chuse to risque, unless

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they should be greatly reinforced. They have all along given out their expectations of 7 or 8 thousand; I believe by best accounts they *have had* reason to expect about 4,000. Their strength at Verplank's Point & the opposite shore is not far from 12 hundred; the ground is peculiarly circumstanced to render their situation secure with the assistance of a few arm'd vessels. His Excellency's intention is to complete the works at West Point in the first place, that that post may stand alone; he will then operate as circumstances may require. I hope he will be able before long to form a camp in West Chester County to prevent the excursions & ravages of the enemy.

I have heard but little said lately of the expectation of a French fleet on our coast. I should be afraid to hear of one at this season, lest they should call upon us for supplies of flour, unless they would do their business expeditiously. It seems as if a few ships *might* do great things.

We have just recieved intelligence that Col. Clark, who commands a party on the frontiers of Virginia, has penetrated the Indian settlements, burnt several towns and destroyed a large quantity of grain; that Governor Hamilton is in irons in Virginia for his malpractices.*

Please to give my love to mother, son, brothers & sisters; if I have time shall write Jabez; and am, dear Sir,

Your affectionate & obedient son & servant,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Gov. TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: July 5th, 1779. B. Genl Huntington, *de* Enemy. Colo Clark penetrated the Indian settlements, burnt & destroy'd some of their towns. Govr Hamilton in irons for malpractices.

* Henry Hamilton, Lieutenant-Governor of Detroit, surrendered to Col. George Rogers Clarke, in February, 1779, and was carried to Virginia, where he was imprisoned for a time, but was afterward released. See Sparks's Writings of Washington, vol. vi. pp. 316, 317 n. — EDS.

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ANDREW WARD* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Lebanon.

GUILFORD, July 7th, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — In my last of the 5th I informed your Excellency that the enemy had landed at Newhaven; they began landing the west side and were in possession of the town before noon. I now have to inform you that they embark^d last evening before dark and stood to the southward. I arrived at Easthaven with about 40 men as soon as possible, where I found Col° Russel with about the same number; the enemy had likewise landed a large party on the east side who were in possession of the heights by the lower ferry. I desired Col° Russel, with what men he had and as they came in, to defend the village as well as he could, as men were fast coming in he would soon be strengthned, and went over to Col° Sabin who was retreated to the height the west side of Neck Bridge. Col° Cook was with him with a few men, not more than 100. I went over to Cheshire Road, where I found several Cap^ts with a few men, and Maj^r Smith on the Derby road with a small party; from those two roads we kept up a constant fire till night. Next morning Gen^ll Hart came in, and we were informed early that the enemy were in motion. We marched with all the troops we had to the town & found they had landed on the east side. I crossed immediately with Col° Cook's reg^t to join Col° Russel; the enemy were so advantageously posted on the heights that we could not do so much as we wished, but most of the afternoon was spent skirmishing with them till they left the shore. They have burn^d houses on the east side, but none in the town except some stores on the wharf, tho

* Andrew Ward, of Guilford, Conn., was appointed a Brigadier-General of Militia in May, 1777, and served on alarms during the War of the Revolution. See Record of Connecticut Men during the Revolution, p. 430. — EDS.

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they have plundered considerably. Their force consisted by the best accounts of between three & four thousand, commanded by Gov^r Tryon. We have taken about 20; their loss in killed & wound believe to be considerable. Our loss in killed about 20 & some wounded. Several deserters came in. I have the pleasure of assuring your Excellency that the militia turned out with great cheerfulness, tho many could not arrive in season. As the ships were out of sight, & the men very pressing to be at harvest, dismis^d them this morning. Since I set down to write, an express arrived from the westward, informing that the enemy are landing at Fairfield; have ordered the western part of Col^o Russel & Cook's regiments to march imediately, and the whole in case they are wanted.

I have the honour to be, your Excellency's

Most obed^t, hum^le serv^t.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL. ANDREW WARD.

P. S. The sloop Guilford being in the harbour was carried off by the enemy & some valuable vessels burnt. Some of the inhabitants were carried off, among them John Whiting, Esq^r. A. W.

Col^o Sabin with a number of the inhabitants made a noble stand till overpowered by numbers.

Indorsed: July 7^th, 1779. B. Gen^l Ward, *de* enemy's evacuating N. Haven. Town plundered. 20 men killed on our side. Landed at Fairfield.

PETER COLT* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Public Service. His Excellency Governour Trumbull, Lebanon.

WEATHERSFIELD, July 8, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE Y^R EXCELLENCY, — Last evening I returnd from N. Haven, whether I had been to make

* From the record of the meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety, July 9, it appears that a letter was "received from Mr. Colt giving the most particular account yet had of the enemy's proceedings, &c., at N. Haven." (See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, p. 356.) Peter Colt, of New Haven, was a graduate of Yale College in the class of 1764. During the War of the Revolution he was deputy quartermaster-

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provision for the troops. As it appears your Excellency has not had a particul. account of this expedition, shall attempt it. The fleet anchord off N. Haven Sunday night. The people were not alarmed untill morning, when they were standing in for the harbour, about 60 or 70 sail, mostly ships. They were commanded by Sir G. Collier; the land forces by Gov^r^ Tryon. Gen. Garth commanded under him. Tryon landed with the troops at Morris Cove, on the east side, & Garth at W. Haven. The guards made a vigorous opposition at both places — howe[ve]r in about an hour the troops were landed; those on the east side gaind Beacon Hill, & drove our small garrison of about 20 men out of the fort, when the gallies & gun boats came into the harbour & burnt the vessells. In the meantime M^r^ J. Hillhous went out with a party to west side, about 50 men, part of them he left at W. brid[g]e & the others went forward to Milford Hill, where they met the advanced party of the enemy, whom they repulsed repeatedly. When the enemy were reinforced our people fought them on a retreat untill they came to the brid[g]e when they repulsed the enemy. They then filed off and went round by West Field to the head of the river, our people hanging on their rear & keeping up a scaterd fire on them. They formed their whole body & marchd in a colom across the river, repulsed our people who had been collected there to the number of about 100; they retreated into town, fighting the enemy on the way. Our people then retreated out of town by Gallows Hill, took up the bridge & there made a stand. The town was immediately given up to plunder, tho the orders were not to plunder those houses where the people were at home & not in arms; however that did not protect them from the soldiery. They plunderd Whigs & Tories alike, tho not universally.

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general for the eastern department, and afterward an assistant commissary-general of purchases. After the war he removed to New Jersey, and subsequently to Rome, N. Y., where he died. See Hinman's Early Settlers of Connecticut, p. 676. — Eds.

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Mr Jo Hotchkiss was kill at Milford Hills, D. Austin, Jur, was badly wounded & several others. President Daggett was made prisoner there, and greatly abused; was not only thretned, but repeatly staped with bayonets. They finally spared his life, & drove him round the river head & into town, where he lay till next day in the greatest distress, when our people found him & took care of him. We have lost about 20 killd & as many wounded. Old Mr Beers was shot in his own house; he lies dangerously ill. Several people were killd in town that were not under arms; those who fell by the wayside of their wounds were butcherd by the enemy & left unburied. They have taken away several of the inhabitants; suppose betwixt 30 & 40 men, besides those who went voluntarily, viz., Jos. Chandler & family, his son Jo Chandler & Amos Botsford & their families & Camp & family. I cannot enumerate all the houses that were rifled, Mrs Wooster's, Parsons Edwards & his brothers, Mr Todd's, Deacon Lyman's, Mr Sherman's, Parson Whittelsey's, Mr Tim Jones, Mr. Drake's & Mr Buell's are the worst damaged. Capt John Mix, Mr Sabin & Jo Whiting, Esq., are amongst those who are carried off. The enemy got possession of the town about 11 clock, Monday, & left it about 9 clock, Tuesday, when they sent boats & fired the stores on the wharf; about 4 were burnt; they kept up a fire on the town from the gallies good part of that day. About sunset our people drove them on board from Easthaven, when the fleet made sail & stood out of the harbour. Next morning the militia were dismissd & went home. We could hear nothing of the fleet. The loss of the British is uncertain; they acknowledge the loss of several valuable officers & men; we took several prisoners; & several deserted.

The grain & corn is not hurt, no fences destroyd, the enemy never venturd out of town. They carried of some small stock & a few cows from town; believe they killd

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& carried of more from east side, perhaps 30 or 40 head. They retreatd in great hurry & confusion. I have seen one of the addresses to the good people of Connecticut, from whence it appears that this force is designed to dragoon this State into a sense of British clemency & the mildness of their government. They say that every house left standing is a monument of *their clemency* & our *ingratitude* to his Majesty, &c., and seem to threten us with utter distruction, unless we speedily return to our allegiance. The officers enquired about the distance & situation of N. Lond., from whence we expectd they would proceed thither. They talkd of going by land; as the wind was not fair they went westard. Yesterday as I returnd home, heard the report of many canon *westard*, conclude at Fairfield & that the enemy will land there. But as the whole country is alarmd hope they will be repulsed there also. They acknowledge our people fought desperatly, & they say madly. The enemy had no expectation of such opposition.

Your Excellency will excuse any erratas in this hasty scrawle, as I have not leisure to copy it. Am, with the greatest esteem,

Your Exc^{y} obd^{t}, hum^{l} serv^{t}.

His Excellency Jon^{a} Trumbull, Esq. Peter Colt.

Indorsed: July 8th, 1779. Peter Colt, Esq^{r}. Narrative of the proceedings of the enemy at New Haven.

SAMUEL WHITING* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Public Service. His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.
P express.

Stratford, 9th July, 1779.

May it please your Excellency, — I esteem it my duty to acquaint your Excellency of the alarming circum-

* Samuel Whiting, of Stratford, was appointed Colonel of the Fourth Regiment of Connecticut militia, composed of companies from Fairfield and Stratford, in Oct., 1776, and continued in command of the regiment until 1780. See Record of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, p. 433. — Eds.

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stances of the towns on the coast through the State. After the depredations of the enemy at New Haven they landed on Wednesday, about 4 P. M., at Fairfield, & as their force was greatly superior to the numbers we were able to collect on so sudden occasion, they marched into town with very little resistance. About sun-set Gen[l] Tryon sent a flag by M[r] Sayer, with the enclos'd address, allowing me an hour for my answer, adding he would not be answerable for the security of the town, if I hesitated to comply; but before I had half read it, near half the town was in flames. The whole of it, except six or seven houses, was consum'd by morning, as also great part of the Parish of Green's-farms, Mill River, & other houses along shore, by parties. They then left the place precipitately, & we having a considerably body collected harrass'd them very much at their embarkation, till afternoon when they all got on board & stood over for Long-Island, & then bore away to the eastward as far as against Stratford. This morning they are standing to the westward. Tis conjectur'd Norwalk is their next object; some deserters confirm it, & some say they are going to New London. Their force, by the best intelligence, is upwards of 3,000.

I have the honor to be, your Excellency's most ob[t], hum[l] ser.

[*No signature.*]

The number of killd on our side 9 or 10; the enemy's much more; we took several prisoners.

Indorsed: July 9[th], 1779. Col[o] Whiting, *de* burning of Fairfield.

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SELECTMEN AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES OF NEW HAVEN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEW HAVEN, July 9th, 1779.

SIR, — Before this you have doubtless been informed of the maloncoly situation of this town. Leivt Col^{l} Sabins is this moment informed by express, that a body of the enemy consisting of 6,000 foot & 1,000 horse are at Rye, on their way eastward; their design is said to be to form a junction with the fleet now lying off Stratford, which yesterday laid the town of Fairfield in ashes, excepting 4 or 5 houses, as we are credibly informed. We have reason to expect notwithstanding they have plundered this town, that their design is to burn it as they have Fairfield, from the threatning, we understand, they have given out. Therefore we beg your Exelencey to give us assistance as soon as possible. We further inform your Excelencey we are in great want of flints, none can be obtained in this town, should be glad of 3 or 4 thousand by the bearer. John Whiteing Esqr, Capt John Mix, Mr Hezekiah Sabin, and several other persons are taken prisoners from this town; we wish the most spedy measures may be taken for their excange.

We are, with due respect & esteem,

Your Excellency's obedient, humble servants,

SAML BISHOP JR.
WILLM GREENOUGH.
DAVID AUSTIN.
JONTH FITCH.
JAMES GILBERT.
NEHEMIAH SMITH.
ABRAHAM AUGUR.
ISAAC DOOLITTLE.

Indorsed: July 9th, 1779. Selectmen & Civil Authority of New Haven, *de* their situation, danger of further distress, want assistance.

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BENJAMIN PAYNE* AND OLIVER ELLSWORTH TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

On Publick Service. His Excellency Gov^r Trumbull, Lebanon.

HARTFORD, July 10th, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — The present alarming situation of the sea coasts and frontiers of this State, two of our most opulent and flourishing towns having already felt the infuriate rage of a merciless and unrelenting enemy, the one laid in ashes, the other plundered and the inhabitants insulted and abused, another division of their army on the march from Kingsbridge by land via Greenwich into this State, while the armament which lately left Fairfield are only taking breath & are every moment expected to return with redoubled fury to make a descent upon some part of our sea coast, doth loudly call for our utmost exertions to prevent their further depredations, and incusions into this State, make no doubt of your Excellency's being not only apprized of these matters, but that you are with unremitting dilligence taking every practicable measure for the safety of the inhabitants, which in our apprehensions must much depend on the spiritd behaviour of the militia, and their being properly furnished and equipt for to make a bold and manly defence, without which have reason to believe that their well meant attempts in their country's defence will prove abortive in this part of the State, we have too much reason to fear that that will be the case, especially for want of a number of field pieces properly furnished, which we are destitute of. The occasion of the present

* Benjamin Payne, of Hartford, was educated for the bar, and was admitted to practice in 1762. He was a deputy to the General Assembly and clerk of the House, a very active member of the Council of Safety, and Judge of Probate. He died in 1782. See Memorial History of Hartford County, vol. i. p. 121; Connecticut Colonial Records, vols. xii.-xv.; Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776-April, 1780, *passim*; Payne Family Records, vol. i. p. 176. — EDS.

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application therefore is to begg your Excellency's advice & interposition in behalf of this State, for the purpose of procuring eight or ten field pieces with all their apparatus, from the artillery at Springfield, to be lent to this State for their present security and defence. This we apprehend to be highly necessary, and that no time ought to be lost, we earnestly therefore intreat your Excellency to take the matter with all its importance into your wise & benign consideration, and procure the necessary article of defence aforementioned, which appears to us essentially necessary to stop the progress of the enemy.

We are, with the highest esteem & regard,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servants.

BENJ: PAYNE.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

P. S. We inclose your Excellency a hand bill printed here this day, containing some intelligence rec[d] from Middletown this day.

His Excellency Gov[r] TRUMBULL.

JOHN RIPLEY* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Gov[r] Trumbull, Lebanon.

WINDHAM, July 10th, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELENCY, — Persuent to your orders of the 21[st] ult[o] I have been through the fifth brigade in this State, have met almost every company of militia in it at their several places of perade; after publishing your proclimation and the generous incouragements therein contained, I used every reasonable

* By a resolve of the Governor and Council of Safety of Connecticut, June 18, 1779, Major John Ripley of the 5th Brigade was appointed, with Aaron Cleveland and four other officers, "to inlist men into the continental army during the war." See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, p. 354. — EDS.

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argument in my power to induce the men to ingage for dureing the war or untill the 15 day of Jan^{y} next. I have spared no pains by day nor by night to obtain them, and have inlisted only two for dureing the war, and four to serve till y^{e} 15th of Jan^{y} next, which is all that I have ingaged for either term; should been happy in procureing more but I am confident its not throug my neglect. I therefore trust my indeavours will be acceptable, which concludes me, your Excelency's most obed^{t} & very humb^{e} serv^{t}.

JOHN RIPLEY.

Indorsed: Maj^{r} John Ripley, recruiting officer, return 10 July, 1779.

CALEB BULL, JR.,* TO RICHARD LAW AND OTHERS.

STRATFORD, 12th July, 7 o'clock, A. M.

GENTLEMEN, — By Cap^{t} Robert Walker, who left Norwalk yesterday at 2 o'clock, P. M., I am informed the enemy from the fleet landed Saturday evening in two parties, one the east and the other the west side of the harbour, about 2,500 in the whole; at day break the next morning they marched to town, and set fire to the same at six o'clock, which has consumed the whole, except a few scattering houses. There was considerable opposition made by a small number of Continental and militia troops, commanded by Generals Wolcott and Parsons, but the opposition was to but little purpose. There was a small number killed on both sides; about two o'clock the enemy embarked, and the fleet still remained in the harbour. Cap^{t} Walker further informs that the enemy, which came out by Kingsbridge, yesterday morning set

* Caleb Bull, Jr., of Hartford, Conn., the eldest of twelve children, was born Jan. 16, 1746, and died Feb. 12, 1797. He seems to have been a prosperous merchant, and to have left a large estate. (See Hinman's Early Puritan Settlers of Connecticut, p. 364.) This letter is printed from a copy in the handwriting of Titus Hosmer, enclosed in a letter from him to Governor Trumbull. — EDS.

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fire to Bedford in York State, 10 or 15 miles northwest of Stanford, and then retired towards Kingsbridge. Their next movement is uncertain, but Stratford and Millford expect them next; the intelligence Cap^{t} Walker gives concerning the enemy's setting fire to Bedford and retiring towards Kingsbridge, he gets by information at Norwalk. The distresses of the people this way are very great; Cap^{t} Walker left the camp at Westpoint, Saturday morning 5 o'clock, at which time his Excellency General Washington had received intelligence of the fate of Fairfield; no orders for any Continental troops to march from there, neither hath any marched, as hath been reported; Cap^{t} Walker supposes there will none leave his Excll^{cy}, unless the enemy's main body should proceed this way.

I am, Gentlemen, with much esteem,

Your humble servant,

CALEB BULL, JUN^{R}.

To RICH^{D} LAW, Esq^{r}, PIERPOINT EDWARDS, Esq^{r}, D^{r} BULL, TITUS HOSMER, Esq^{r}, & Col^{o} THOMAS SEYMOUR, &c.

AARON CLEVELAND* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

NORWICH, 13 July, 1779.

SIR, — Persuant to your Excellency's orders and verbal advice, I have had collected most of the militia companies in this town, have laid before them your Excellency's proclamation, togeather with every stimulating argument I could make use of, in order to arrouse

* Aaron Cleveland was born in East Haddam, Conn., Feb. 3, 1744, but spent most of his active life in Norwich. "It has been claimed for him that he was the first writer in Connecticut to call in question the lawfulness of slavery and to argue against it." After the close of the war he became a Congregational minister, and was settled for a short time at Brampton, Vt. He died in New Haven, Sept. 21, 1815. See Miss Caulkins's History of Norwich, p. 520. — EDS.

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the martial fire once more to a flame, at this finishing period of the war; but arguments seam ineffectual, nor does your Excellency's proclamation with the generous incouragements proffer'd by the Assembly, avail. In short, S^r^, I have not inlisted a single man tho' have taken unweari'd pains. I was at Newlondon on the late alarm, and did intend to have laid your Excellency's proclamation before the whole brigade at once, and appli'd to Gen^rl^ Tyler for that purpose, who said he would indeavour to give me an opportunity, but the confusion the men were in, and finely their dismission, prevented; nor could I justly have expected any success had it ben otherwise, judging from late experience. Shall wate your Excellency's further instructions.

I am, your Excellency's
Most obedient, humble servant.
AARON CLEVELAND.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: July 13, 1779. Aaron Cleveland, *de* ill success in recruiting men for the Continental service.

SAMUEL H. PARSONS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Public Service. To His Excellency Governor Trumbull. Lebanon.

STAMFORD, 17^th^ July, 79.

SIR, — The depredations of the enemy upon the sea coasts of the State General Wolcott has doubtless particularly inform^d^ you of. The destruction at Norwalk is what I have been a witness to; 132 dwelling houses, meeting house & church included, 87 barns, 22 store houses, 17 shops, 4 mills, & 5 vessels were burnt, with the wheat, hay, &c., which had been gatherd in. The wretches went of with so much precipitation as left them no opportunity of committing the ourtrages on the persons of the inhabitants, which in other places they have

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been guilty of; enough however appeard to demonstrate the continuance of their hellish temper. Several of our soldiers, who appear to have been first wounded, were found with their skulls blow'd off by muskets discharg[d] into them after they were wounded.

In the distres[d] state of the country I beg liberty to urge the necessity of immediately raising the two State regiments & filling the army. The calling the militia from their labours at this season, from distant parts of the State, not only exceedingly distresses the country, but no very valuable purpose can be answerd by it. In this desultory war the enemy are gone before they can collect & form into a proper body of opposition. If 1,000 men were rais[d] and properly organis[d], and an act was pas[d] to enable them to be mounted on the horses in the vicinity of their station, on any descent on a distant town, they will always be able to arrive sooner than a body of militia can be collected from any considerable distance, and will be always ready for immediate action, and will give such a check to the progress of the enemy as will give time for collecting a greater force on necessary occasions. Filling our quota of the army will enable the General to station a force in the State to assist in its defence. I am inclind to beleive they have gone thrô their present intentions, as the fleet are returnd to New York & the army on the borders of the State seem to be withdrawing; this will give time, if improv[d], to make our preparations to receive their next visit in a proper manner.

I know our militia are as brave as any men; but I have been the unhappy wittness of the inefficacy of their opposition, arising principally from the want of their collecting in a proper organis[d] state, so as to unite the force to be us[d] in attacking the enemy. I wish some effectual measures could be immediately taken to remedy this evil. General Wolcott who is here will point out more

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particularly what in his opinion is necessary to secure the State.

I am, with esteem & respect,
Y^r^ Excellency's obed^t^ serv^t^.
SAM^L^ H. PARSONS.

Indorsed: July 17, 1779. B. General Parsons, *de* necessity of raising the State battalions & filling up the Cont. army.

JOHN WILLARD* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r^, Governor, Captain-General, &c^a^, over the State of Connecticut, at Lebanon.

STAFFORD, July 29, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — I beg leave to address you upon an affair which very nearly concerns me. I would inform you, Sir, that my son, the bearer, was lately detached for the term of seven months. You will permit me to assign reasons why he ought not (as I presume) to be detached, to go into the service for so long a time.

He is the only person in my family that is capable of bearing arms. My eldest son (naturally of a slender make) has had his constitution broken by repeated fits of sickness. He has, on this account, ever been exempted from military services. He has been under an incapacity of supporting himself. I have been at a very considerable expence in providing for him.

The only son I have, besides the two mentioned, is but in his 13^th^ year.

You will permit me, Sir, to observe further, that M^rs^ Willard, by several fits of sickness, has been reduced to a very low state of health; & for several years past has

* Rev. John Willard was born in Biddeford, Me., Jan. 28, 1732–3, graduated at Harvard College, in 1751, and was settled in Stafford, Conn., where he died Feb. 16, 1807, after a ministry of more than fifty years. See Allen's Biographical Dictionary, p. 859. — EDS.

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been almost constantly under the care of a physician, to my no small charge.

And my own health has been but indifferent for several years. Am now incapable of bearing hardships.

I beg leave of your Excellency to observe further (but do it at the same time with great reluctance,) that my salary from the people (originally very scanty, viz^{t}, but £60 pr. annum) has, for these two years past, been reduced to one third (or probably less) of its original value. Within two years I have suffered the loss of above eighty pounds, silver money, which was due from the parish, according to the true spirit of the original contract. This is a fact which few, if any, of the people will pretend to controvert.

Having but a small estate, & my former income having been so very much reduced, I do not see how I could have supported my family, & performed my pastoral services, these two years past, without the labor of my son who is now detached.

Your Excellency will be pleased to excuse this minute detail of family circumstances, with which I should by no means have troubled you without urgent necessity, as I humbly think.

As to my son's military services, I will beg leave, Sir, to observe that in about 4 months after he was 16 years of age he was detached (agreeably to a late law of this State to divide companies into classes) & marched chearfully to North River soon after the Convention at Saratoga, & was absent 2 months. That a great part of the militia that have marched from this place from time to time, since his return, have been absent but about a month. That according to the mode of classing companies his turn is not come round. There are three able-bodied men, at least, who have not been in the service since his return, as appears from the roll.

I ask not, may it please your Excellency, to be exempt

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from bearing, in common with my fellow-citizens, the burdens of the day. But I humbly request that my burdens may not be in a three-fold proportion to that of the generality of the people among whom I live. And that the pastoral services I mean to perform, notwithstanding past discouragements, may not be *so* lessened as they must be should my son, who contributes so much to the support of my family, be taken from me for so long a time. The tax imposed upon me by the parish (if I may so express it) would have hired several men for the Continental service.

Added to my other special difficulties, I beg leave to acquaint you, Sir, that my eldest son is sick with the dysentery. His physician tells me the disorder has been pretty severe. I need not observe to you that when a severe fit of sickness seizes but one member of a family, it takes up much of the care & time of the adult persons in it. This is the case with us at present. And it would be rather uncommon, should all the other members of the family escape so contagious a distemper.

Your Exc̃y will be pleased to take my case into consideration; & if it can be done consistently I beg the favor that my son may be released from the present detachment.

I would, in person, have waited upon you; but the distressing sickness in my family forbids it, & must be my apology.

I am, with due respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient
& very humble servant,
JOHN WILLARD.

Indorsed: July 29th, 1779. Revd Jno Willard's Letter, *de* his son drafted into service & requesting his release.

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MATTHEW GRAVES* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To his Excellency, Jonathan Trumbull, Esq^r, Governor & Commander in Chief of the State of Connecticut, this Petition humbly sheweth:

That above thirty years the Rev^d Matthew Graves has officiated at New-London as Minister of the Church of England, during which time he has endeavor'd conscientiously to discharge his trust, having never busied himself in any disputes or controversies, religious or political:

That since this unhappy war he has been oblig'd to desist his public ministration, &, in obedience to y^e laws of the land, has not negotiated any bills for his salary from England, has spent the greater part of his estate, & sold some of his household furniture & a negroe to procure the necessaries of life:

Therefore he prays your Excellency's permission to remove himself, family & remaing effects to Long-Island, where, by selling his bills, he may be supported; & so prevent those calamitous circumstances into which he fears he must otherwise be reduc'd, having in the last winter been often destitute of the necessaries of life: & your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

MATT. GRAVES.

NEW-LONDON, August 3^d, 1779.

Indorsed: Rev^d Matth^w Graves, Memorial August 4^th, 1779. Granted.

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* Rev. Matthew Graves was sent over from England by the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and was rector of the Episcopal Church in New London, Conn., for more than thirty years. On the breaking out of the War of the Revolution he gave great offence to many of the citizens, and was forcibly removed from the pulpit for continuing to read the prayers for the King and the royal family. In Aug., 1779, he received permission to go within the enemy's lines. He died in New York April 5, 1780. See Miss Caulkins's History of New London, pp. 445–447; Sabine's American Loyalists, vol. i. pp. 487, 488; Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, p. 381. — EDS.

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JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEILSON'S POINT, 6 August, 1779.

DEAR SIR, — By a Resolution of Congress, appointments in the State line of the Continental army are to be made by the chief executive authority of the States respectively. You will probably soon have returns made for this purpose from commanding officers of regiments. I beg leave to suggest the necessity of the sd. authority's having accurate lists of their officers & their relative rank from the Board of War. I have no reason to think the commanding officers of regiments will nominate any for promotion who have not the right of succession without mentioning the deviation and very cogent reasons for it, but should the late arrangement be departed from, it will throw the army again into the greatest confusion. As to new appointments I could wish there might be few or none; the present number of officers is more than adequate to the number of men that we have or shall probably receive. If sergeants are promoted they lessen our real strength, besides upon becoming officers they have new and necessary wants which cannot easily be supplied, and therefore they will add to the number of the discontented, who are too numerous already.

Among the recruits from Massachusetts there are found some men who were not long since discharged from the army for disability; it is not unlikely that individuals & the public may be imposed on in Connecticut by such characters; many have been discharged from the army who to appearance are fit for duty, but who from long experience are found to be only a dead weight & deceit to the army; they are labouring under rheumatic disorders, bursts, weak habits of body, &c., &c. In fair weather & light duty they are of some little service, but in general only an embarrassment & expence to the army

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& the public. Several of this class among the Massachusetts recruits have been mustered out, & some boys. I hope it will not be the case with any of those who may come from Connecticut.

11th. Since writing the above, I have been desired by General Putnam to send you the arrangement of the officers of my brigade which I have accordingly done regimentally. The officers mentioned *not commissioned* have had as yet only temporary appointments, the commanding officers of regts will recommend them to be confirmed. The right of succession is theirs; and they are deserving the places.

14th. Some prisoners taken below & examined yesterday tell of 13 ships going from N. York some days ago & returning much shatter'd & that a fleet of French ships were gone up the Delaware, but the account wants explanation. The army is in fine health & spirits. I thought we should have, before this, completed the works at these posts, but the fruitful invention of the engineers, & sometimes their changibility, have protracted them.

Please to remember me to all as due, & believe me, your affectionate & most obedient servant.

JED. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull.

Indorsed: August 6th & 14th, 1779. B. General Huntington, *de* promotions in the Connecticut Line, &c., recd 17th Augt, inst.

WILLIAM WORTHINGTON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Lebanon.

SAYBROOK, August 6th, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — Last evening Capt Rogers boat came from the Island with young Mr

* William Worthington entered the military service in 1776, and continued in it until the close of the War of the Revolution. He was also a Justice of the Peace for the County of New London, and often a deputy from Saybrook to the General Assembly. — EDS.

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Deering on board; he inform that Lord Cornwallis had arriv^{d} in York and was to take the chief comand, that he came in the Greyhound frigate, and had brought no recruits with him, and none had arri'd as yet, & that Col^{l} Edm^{d} Fanning had, on the Heights at East Haven, receiv^{d} a mortal wound in his neck, by a musquet shot, and given over by his surgeons. This account Phinehas Fanning gives who had been to see his brother. M^{r} Deering informs that the ship Oliver Cromwell is now in Huntington Bay, fitted out (by the name of the Restoration) as a commodore of a fleet of Tories, &c., for the purpose of ravaging our coasts on a smaller scale.

I earnestly request your Excellency to order a couple of field pieces for the use of my reg^{t} as others have. I hope such a thing may be thought expedient. I am perswaded they may be of very great utility. I would propose that one should be station^{d} in Saybrook and the other in Guilford. I would endeavour a good use should be made of them. Station^{d} thus near the sea shore they may (if well pay^{d}) be a means of preventing an enemy from landing, while those at Middletown and Hartford would probably arrive too late to answer so good a purpose; would gladly be in a position to yeald all the service in my power, wish a line from your Excellency, with regard to this and the other matter touch^{d} upon from Newhaven, enclosd by Gen^{ll} Ward, &c. I am your Excellency's most obedient, humble serv^{t}.

W^{m} WORTHINGTON.

Indorsed: August 6th, 1779. Col^{o} Worthington, *de* intelligence from Long Island, requests a field piece may be stationed at Saybrook.

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JAMES WADSWORTH* AND OTHERS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

To his Excellency the Governor & Council of Safety, —

We the subscribers, being appointed to repair to New London & Groton, view the fortifications & works at those posts, confer with the commanding officers there, to consult and advise every measure necessary generally for defence, and report make, Take leave to report that we repaired to New London & Groton, and on the 5th instant, with the officers commanding there, inqu[i]red into the matters refered to in our appointment, and find that Fort Trumbull is in the same condition as for many months past, that there are ten cannon mounted, of the size mentioned in a late return by Majr Ledyard. That the fort at Town Hill is nearly compleated, except the gate & barracks which are going on. The platforms laid, some cannon mounted, the residue were to be yesterday; the whole number two 12lb, three 9lb, & seven 6lb cannon. That it is judged adviseable the fort should be inclosed with an abbatis. That at New London there are two 12lb & two 3lb cannon mounted on travailing carriages. That Fort Griswold is in good condition, except the abbatis, which it was judged advisable to have immediately repaired. That there are twenty four cannon mounted, of the size mentioned in a late return by Majr Ledyard. That the battery at Groton is in good condition and eight cannon mounted thereon, of the size described in Majr Ledyard's late return. That the redoubt is yet unfinished, but may be soon compleated if proper tools can be provided. That there are at Groton one 12lb & two 4lb cannon on travainling carriages. That there are at Norwich,

* For notice of James Wadsworth, see *ante*, p. 377 n. Nathaniel Wales, Jr., of Windham, was a very active and influential person, serving as a deputy from that town, as a member of the Council of Safety, and in other capacities. David Mumford, of Norwich, was appointed a member of the Council of Safety in May, 1778. — Eds.

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Preston, and places adjacent 33,700 musquet cartridges, also 44,000 at New London and in the hands of the militia. That there are at New London fit for duty 1,111 rank & file, at Groton 551. That there are under the command of Brig^r Gen^l Tuler about 2,300 men, officers included, a weekly return of which we have desired him to make to the Cap^t General. That the time of service of the companies commanded by Captains Cary, Williams, & Deshon, amounting to 176 men, expires on Tuesday next. That there are at Norwich four 6^lb cannon which may be used at any post where necessary, for which Cap^t John Deshon desires to exchange an equal number of longer, & purchase two more if to be had. That we reconnoitered the grounds adjoyning the harbour of New London and the points of land on each side, and find that in calm weather a landing from boats may be made in so many places that it is very uncertain whether the erecting further works to prevent a landing of the enemy would answer any valuable end. That on consultation with Gen^l Tuler & the field officers, they gave it as their oppinion that to man the fortifications it will be necessary to have in Fort Trumbull 80 men, fort on Town Hill 250, Fort Griswold & battery 550, officers included. That it is necessary to be further supplyed with two ton of cannon powder, 5,000 flints, and one ton of lead, about two hundred pounds weight of which we have desired Gen^l Huntington, who has the same in his custody, to forward immediately to Maj^r Ledyard. That it is necessary sixteen draft horses be provided for the use of the field pieces & amunition waggons, which we think most advisable to be procured from the Deputy Qua^r Master at Windham, if it may be. That we have engaged Maj^r Ledyard to procure twelve axes, which he informed he could do immediately. Have engaged Elijah Backcus Esq^r to make one dozen of spades and one dozen of shovels for the works at New London. Have engaged

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Cap^{t} Richard Deshon to procure four large scoughs to be employed in transporting the troops as ocation may require, two of which he has already engaged. Maj^{r} Ledyard requests an order may be given to Maj^{r} Huntington for a quantity of sheet copper in his custody belonging to the United States, to be used for ladles for the cannon.

All which is humbly submitted,

JAMES WADSWORTH.
NATH^{L} WALES, JU^{R}.
DAVID MUMFORD.

LEBANON, 7th Aug^{t}, 1779.

N. B. A whale boat should be provided for the use of the troops at New London.

Aug^{t} 10th, 1779. The foregoing Report accepted & approved.

Test, JAMES WADSWORTH, *Clerk*.

Indorsed: Report of Mess^{rs} Wadsworth, Wales, and Mumford, *de* Fortifications & Works at N. London, rec^{d} 7th ins^{t}.

SAMUEL MOTTE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

[August 20, 1779.]

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR WITH HIS COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Being, on application from New Haven, directed by your Excellency & Council to repair to New Haven, & view & examine into the practicability of fortifying, so as to defend the s^{d} town & harbour, &c. Beg leave to report that upon viewing the situation of s^{d} town & harbour, it appears that a small work already made at Black Rock,

* This report of Colonel Motte is not dated, but it was submitted at a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety held Aug. 20, 1779. (See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, p. 388.) Samuel Motte was a deputy to the General Assembly of Connecticut, from Preston, a justice of the Peace, and a member of the Council of Safety. In May, 1775, he was appointed an Engineer, to act in said capacity at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Subsequently he was a Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel in the militia. See Connecticut Colonial Records, vol. XV., *passim*; Public Records of Connecticut, Oct., 1776–April, 1780, *passim*; Record of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, pp. 38, 389, 431. — EDS.

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near the entrance of s^d^ harbour, is well situated, and may be of great use in defending against any arm'd vessels which may attempt to enter the harbour, but sundry commanding grounds being contiguous, it appears that if an enemy should approach & make good a landing in any parts without Black Rock, near the chops of s^d^ harbour, which would be attended with little or no difficulty, they might, by possessing themselves of the s^d^ commanding grounds or any one of them, prevent the defence that might be made from the work at Black Rock & easily take possession of it, & of course command the entrance of the harbour.

That there is a little Northeastward of Black Rock a commanding ground call'd Beacon Hill which, if well fortified with a small but regular work, would with a garrison of three or 4 hundred men be capable of defending against an enemy, unless in case of a regular & severe siege, & the said work so built on s^d^ Beacon Hill would with 4 or 5 pieces of heavy artillery, and some smaller pieces on the part next the country, to prevent a sudden assault, be able effectually to defend & command the channel of the harbour, & to cover & command the work at Black Rock and all the other rising ground from the operations of the enemy. That the said Beacon Hill does not lie quite so near the town as might be wish'd, or so as to annoy an enemy in case they were in possession of it, but a few small batterys & intrenchments already erected about the harbour, on the town side, operating with a work or fort on s^d^ hill, would be able to secure the town and harbour, unless it should be approach'd on the land side from some more distant part of the shore, in which case they will be under the necessity of retiring by the same route, beg leave also to report that about five or 6 heavy cannon will be necessary with a number of smaller sizes for the necessary works, which is humbly submitted by your Excellency's most obedient serv^t^. SAM^L^ MOTTE.

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WILLIAM LIVINGSTON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq., Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lebanon, Connecticut.

RARITAN, 23d August, 1779.

SIR, — I find myself honoured with your Excellency's favour of the 15th ultmo, and am much obliged to you for any civilities shewn to my nephew Mr William Alexander Livingston, & think you was perfectly right in refusing his request to go into New York. He was certainly a British subject at the time of his capture; and if his name does not stand too much in his way, we may get a good American in exchange for him. Indeed I am sorry that a single individual of his name should chuse to be such a subject. But all families are liable to have degenerate members. Even Adam's had its Cain: that of Isaac its Esau; and among the twelve Apostles there was at least one traitor.

I heartily sympathize with your Excellency over the late cruel & wanton ravages of the enemy in your State. The destruction of so many populous and flourishing towns, without the least tendency to effect their original purpose of subduing this country, is so savagely vindictive that I hope it will inspire us with fresh resolutions never to submit to such unfeeling barbarians, even should we be reduced to the necessity of reversing the prophet's prediction, & beat our ploughshares into swords, & our

* William Livingston was born in Albany, N. Y., Nov. 30, 1723, graduated at Yale College with high rank in 1741, and studied law. He soon became one of the leaders of the New York bar; but in May, 1772, he removed to New Jersey, where he afterward resided. He was a delegate from New Jersey to the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776. In the latter year he was elected Governor. He held that office until his death, at Elizabethtown, July 25, 1790. See Dexter's Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Yale College, vol. i. pp. 682-686; Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iii. pp. 742, 743. — EDS.

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pruning hooks into spears. I trust, however, that this campaign will fill the measure of their iniquity; & that by next spring, at farthest, we shall be able to congratulate each other on the firm establishment of our independence.

With great esteem & regard, I am,

Your Excellency's most humble servt,

WIL: LIVINGSTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 23d Augt, 1779. Govr Livingston, *de* his Nephew, recd at Hartford.

HENRY VAN DYCK TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

STRATFORD, August 24th, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — The bearer hereof, Mr Hezekiah Wetmore of Stratford, will wait on your Excellency with a request in my favour (as a poor candidate for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church) for permission for myself & family consisting of a wife and four small children to go with a flag upon Long Island, together with our houshold furniture, beds & bedding sufficient for the family, upon the same terms as the Revd. Mr Graves of New London, with his family, hath obtained leave, with licence to proceed (the Lord willing) to Great Britain for the above purpose of Divine Ordination.

I beg leave to inform your Excellency that I am so reduced, by the large demand of taxes & other great losses, that I am unable to support my family here with any tolerable decency; & by not being in Orders I am incapable of obtaining that support for them which I otherways might. What adds still to my afflictions I have been laid under very heavy bonds by which I am limited to

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the town of Stratford, prevented from performing divine services at Newtown, from whence I received my greatest support, deprived of the liberty of corresponding with an aged infirm mother, a widow to whom I am an only child, who is within the British lines, & also otherways restrained in such a manner as to render life a burthen & a continuance in this situation almost insupportable. A copy of this bond M^r^ Wetmore will shew your Excellency, & should you think proper to make any enquiries respecting this as well as any other matter this gentleman will be able to give the most ample satisfaction, as he acted officially in the Court of Enquiry & also as he is an inhabitant of this town.

It is well known that my profession as a Christian forbids me to take up arms (in my own opinion), as I have always openly & freely declared it. I can therefore be of no service here, nor any way injurious to the American cause upon the other side. For I trust *thro divine gruce* there are no temptations sufficient to make me fall off from what I conceive a duty as a believer in Christ, to whose most sacred rules I hold myself accountable and before whom I shall eventually stand or fall.

But should your Excellency not think proper to grant my request upon the same ground that M^r^ Graves obtained his, I most earnestly supplicate relief in some other way. That I may have free liberty as a peaceable citizen to the full enjoyment of all those rights which as the Lord's free man I humbly conceive I ought to partake of; but should I be so unhappy as to be excluded from either, I must beg your Excellency will be so very kind as to permit me, with my helpless family, to go to some other part of the world, where we may be able to live, for in our present situation we must soon be reduced to the lowest degree of poverty. In full confidence, therefore, relying upon your Excellency's well known humanity & charity, I must hope for success, and that injured

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innocence will not apply in vain.* I am, with the greatest respect & highest esteem,

May it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most obed. & very hble. servt.

HENRY VAN DYCK.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: August 24, 1779. The Revd Mr H. Van Dyck, *de* permission to go to L. Island, with his family.

JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NEILSON'S POINT, 25 Aug., 1779.

DEAR SIR,—The commanding officers of the regts in my brigade begin to be alarm'd for the want of shoes. They have received near or quite their two pairs p man for the current year, and about half their men are barefoot. The clothier has orders to deliver no more than the stipulated quantity; cannot the State find means to have the men furnished? if they are not soon supplied they will be unfit for duty and their health exposed. Two pairs of shoes of the best kind will not carry a man through the ordinary services of a campaign, much less if they are poor, as has generally been the case.

General Sullivan has advanced about ninety miles west of Wioming, burnt *Shamong* one of the chief towns of the Senecas.

The junction of the French & Spanish fleets is generally believed; some say they are in the Channel of England.

Capt Dwight Lyman was at Powle's Hook when Major Lee took the place. It seems he has sold out of the British army for 2,000 guineas, & tis said show'd himself to Major Lee in giving him information of some British officers being in the vicinity; but the Major dared not stay to improve it — least he should be interupted in his return.

* At a meeting of the Governor and Council, Aug. 27, 1779, permission was "granted to Mr. Henry Vandyke, his wife and children, to go over to Long Island with their effects." See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, p. 390. — EDS.

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There is in my opinion great want of œconomy in our military system. The number of officers is out of proportion to the men; there is at least one third more than is necessary; the staff are in proportion to the number of corps, & they are the most expensive part of our officers, as they are all mounted on horses. If our regiments were incorporated & reduced to half their present number, the saving would be prodigious; the supernumerary officers upon having security for past dues would be willing to leave the army where they are sensible they are not wanted. Sheldon's regiment of horse ought to be filled up or reduced to two or three companies and a major's command; at present its condition is a burlesque on military arrangements, & there are others more so than Sheldon's. I am, with the utmost respect & esteem, your Excellency's affectionate & obed^{t} serv^{t}.

J. HUNTINGTON.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN TYLER.

LEBANON, 27th Aug^{t}, 1779.

SIR, — There are many complaints against the armed whale boats for plundering or carrying on illicit trade. You will make diligent enquiry after any that may be charged with it, and call such com̃ander of boat before you with the evidences for such complaint or suspicion, and upon finding just grounds therefor, you will send such com̃ander before the Gov^{r} with his Council of Safety, with the evidences or documents necessary, that he may be dealt with as to justice it may appurtain.

I understand the people of New London are destitute of a minister. Religion and virtue is of the utmost importance for the com̃unity and for the soldiery. You will therefore take care and provide some sutable person

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or persons to officiate with you as chaplain. You will give me intelligence of your proceedings in this regard.

I am, with great truth & regard, Sir,

Your obedient, hble. servant.

B. General TYLER. JONᵀᴹ TRUMBULL.

JOHN TYLER TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

HEAD QUARTERS, NEW LONDON, 28th Augt, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — Your Excellency's favours of the 25th & 27th inst. have received & shall pay all due attention to their contents; have directed Lieut. Shipman, commanding at Say Brook to keep a good look out for the whale boats in that quarter, & have sent the orders to the gentlemen that are directed to procure horses for the artillery. Captain Tyler has eight horses for his waggon & field pieces, some of which are very indifferent; they are at present kep on Mr Shaw's Neck. Inclosed is coppy of a letter from Commissary Fanning respecting flour; am fearful we shall soon be out of that article in this department.

The bearer of this, Corpl Edgerton, is to go on to Hartford with Captn Stanton Hazard, with Major Ledyard's letter to Ezekiel Williams, Esqr. I have orderd rice delivd out two days in a week in lieu of bread to the whole of the troops; have the honor to be

Your Excellency's most obt servt.

JOHN TYLER, *B. Genl*.

WILLIAM VERNON * TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

NAVY BOARD, EASTERN DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, August 30, 1779.

SIR, — We was honored last evening (by your messenger Brown) with your favor of the 27th instant, inclosing

* William Vernon was born in Newport, R. I., Jan. 17, 1719, became one of the widest known and most successful merchants in that town, and died there Dec. 22, 1806. When

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a packet from William Bingham, Esq^{r}, at Martinique, for the Navy Board at Boston or Philadelphia, which was principally requesting to forward a packet under cover, to the Committee for Foreign Affairs at Philadelphia; therefore it had been best to have sent your messenger directly on with the letter to Philadelphia.

We herewith return it, wishing it may go forward by first conveyance. Inclose you M^{r} Bingham's letter to the Navy Board *open*, that you may have oppertunity of seeing what foreign intelligence he hath received; after you have perused pleased to close & send on.

We much regret that it will not be in your power to replace the pigg iron ballast, borrowed from the Trumbull, as Cap^{t} Deshon left us last week, with a view of getting that ship to sea immediately; hope some means may be fallen upon to obtain it. M^{r} Dean has not charged the guns in his accounts. Lodged the bill with us, which we shall discharge, if they are received; that will be determined by Cap^{t} Deshon.

There is a total loss of all the shiping & stores at Penobscot (the Pallas only escaped). Upon appearance of the enemy, our shipping run up Penobscot river where they were set on fire by the several commanders. The officers are hourly arriving from thence. We chuse to suspend our judgment upon the failure of this important expedition untill a public enquiry takes place.* We have no very material news in town. Cap^{t} Whipple with his small squadron captured ten sail of the Jamaica fleet, eight of which are safe arrived, two missing.

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the British troops occupied Newport, he was obliged to leave the place, and came to Boston. In May, 1777, he was elected by Congress, with James Warren and John Deshon, a member of the navy board at Boston, and was made president of the board. On the close of the war he returned to Newport, and resumed his commercial activities. See N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register, vol. xxxiii. pp. 317, 318. — Eds.

* For some remarks on the Penobscot Expedition, see 2 Proceedings, vol. xii. pp. 200–202. — Eds.

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We felicitate you with this event & the good news from the West Indies of the success of our allies, and are, with perfect esteem,

Your most obed^{t}, hum^{bl} serv^{ts}.

W^{M} VERNON *for the Board.*

His Excellency JON^{A} TRUMBULL, Esq^{r}.

WILLIAM WORTHINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

SAYBROOK, August 30th, 1779.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — I think it my duty to inform (as I have certain inteligence) that the British fleet has arriv^{d} in New York, under the command of Admiral Arbuthnot, consisting of about eighty sail in the whole. They arriv^{d} last Wednesday; tis said they have 7,000 troops with them, but by the best accounts they have little more than 3,000. That number they surely have, Major Drummond, first aid to Gen^{ll} Clinton, came in the fleet with dispaches for him, who still holds the command. There are a number of merchant men with the fleet, tis said, with large quantities of goods, and the talk is that the troops are going to the southward or to the West Indias. The enemy are building a very large fort on the Island near Broolyn ferry; they are very strict about leting any pass into the citty. This account M^{r} Seaman procur^{d} by a friend of his who obtain^{d} a permitt from Gen^{l} Delancy, and was in York when the fleet arriv^{d}. The inteligence is *genuine* and may be *rely^{d} on* without any doubt, and the person who obtaind it a thorough friend. M^{r} Seaman when on the Island presum^{d} upon it from talk I had with him before, of which I mention^{d} in a letter to your Excellency. I trust he and I shall be justified, as tis from pure intentions. M^{r} Seaman wishes his name conceal^{d} least his friends should be hurt.

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I am, with the greatest esteem and veneration, your Excellencies most obedient, humble servt.

Wm Worthington.

Indorsed: Colo Wm Worthington's, Augt 30, 1779, givs information of yo movs the Enemy & arrival of Admi Arbuthnot at N. York.

SIR HENRY CLINTON* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Head Quarters, New York, the 7th Sep., 1779.

Sir, — I have information on oath that William Peck, Darlen Welpley and Solomon Farris, formerly inhabitants of Connecticut, but since the yr 1776 within the protection of the King's Army, were confined in irons, tried at Fairfield and condemned to suffer death.

Shou'd you, in this or other similar instances, continue to exercise these rigours, much more shou'd any loyalist be put to death for warrantable hostilities against the people in arms to oppose the King's Government, I shall be compelled to make the severest retaliations, and they will light upon such persons as I shall judge in nearest connection with the men who may have been instrumental in such vindictive oppressions.

You will see this resolution operate very speedily, on the first cause you shall give for its taking effect.

I am, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servt.

H. Clinton.

Govr Trumbull.

Indorsed: Sept. 7th, 1779. His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton, *de* sundry persons, inhabitants of this State, — since the year 1776 within their protection; now said to be under sentence of death by trial at Fairfield; threatens retaliation if these rigours are practised.

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* Sir Henry Clinton, the only son of Admiral George Clinton, Governor of Newfoundland from 1732 to 1741, and of New York from 1741 to 1751, was born about 1738. In 1751 he was gazetted as a lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards. In May, 1772, he was made a Major-General, and three years later he came over to Boston with Generals Howe and Burgoyne. From May, 1778, to May, 1781, he was commander-in-chief of the British forces in North America. He was a member of the House of Commons at three different periods, and died, Governor of Gibraltar, Dec. 23, 1795. See Dictionary of National Biography, vol. xi. pp. 94, 95. — Eds.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SIR HENRY CLINTON.*

STATE OF CONNECTICUT. LEBANON, 13th Sept^{r}, 1779.

SIR, — Your letter of the 7th ins^{t} is received. The case you mention of three men tried at Fairfield, and condemned to suffer death, is not yet officially laid before me.†

Attention will be given, and care taken that nothing is done relative to them, but what appertains to law and justice.

I am, Sir, your most obedient, and most hble. servant.

His Excellency Sir H. CLINTON. JONTH TRUMBULL.

JEDIDIAH MORSE‡ TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq., Lebanon.

WOODSTOCK, Sept^{r} y^{e} 8th, 1779.

RESPECTED & HONRD SIR, — I rece^{d} a few lines from your Excellency yesterday by M^{r} Wood of Lebanon, to Co^{ll} M^{c}Clellan & Cap^{t} Paine, desireing them to consult and reconsider the affairs with regard to my son, which I delivered to them this day; have freely deliberated upon the affair, am warranted from both those gentlemen to inform your Excellency that they are sorry your Ex-

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* Governor Trumbull's answer to Sir Henry Clinton's letter was copied by his own hand on the blank page of Clinton's letter. — EDS.

† Darling Whelpley, Solomon Ferriss, William Peck, and David Washborn were sentenced to be executed on the 10th of November, 1779, "for the crime of high treason." At the session of the General Assembly of Connecticut in October, it was resolved that the execution of the sentence be "suspended until the first Wednesday of March next." At the session in Jan., 1780, it was resolved that these men and others should be exchanged for Brigadier-General Silliman and other prisoners in the hands of the British, "in such way and manner as his Excellency the Governor and Council of Safety shall order and appoint." At the meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety, Feb. 12, 1780, the resolves necessary for carrying out the exchange, as proposed by Sir H. Clinton, were passed. See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, pp. 414, 466, 503, 504. — EDS.

‡ Father of Rev. Jedidiah Morse, D.D., long the minister of the First Church in Charlestown, Mass., but best known as a geographer. The father was a farmer, a deacon in the church, and represented the town of Woodstock in the Connecticut Assembly for thirty successive sessions. See Sprague's Annals of the American Pulpit, vol. ii. p. 247. — EDS.

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cellency did not give my son a full discharge from y^e^ draft. They wish it was done as they look upon it altogether reasonable it should be done; and the Co^ll^ would do it with all freedom, were times now as they were but one year ago, but to use his own words, drafts now a days are so frequent and excuses & applications likewise as frequent, that I really wish it was not in my power to excuse any, and if I should discharge your son, as he lives in the town, and many dont know nor consider the weight of the reasons for your son's being excused, it would be very disagreeable to me to hear all that would be said, & perhaps not so well for you as if your son was discharg^d^ by his Excellency, who is the head; therefore should advise you to apply to the Governor once more and, as he is as well acquainted with the circumstances of the affair, by your account, as I am; and will acquaint his Excellency how it is with me, and get a discharge there and no one will have a right to complain. These are the words & sentiments of the Co^ll^, as near as I can recollect; or at least to the same import. I urged him to write, but he declined, least he might give occasion to any to say he had any hand in the affair. Capt Paine also advise it was best for the Co^ll^ not to write for the same reason. Thus, Honour^d^ S^r^, I have given you the sentiments of those two gentlemen, whom I esteem to be as true, upright & faithful in their respective stations, in the discharge of their trusts, as any in the compass of my knowledge, without exception; and now would submit the matter to your Excellencies wise & final determination, and hope it may prevent any further trouble to your Excellency or myself about the matter.

With grateful acknowledgments of past favours,
am, with all due regards, your Excellency's
most obed^t^ & humble serv^t^.

JEDIDIAH MORSE.

His Excellency JONATH^N^ TRUMBULL, Esq.

Indorsed: Sept. 8, 1779. Jed. Morse, *de* affair of his son detached.

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G. SELLECK SILLIMAN TO JOHN BEATY.*

(Coppy) FLATT BUSH, Sep^{r} 20th, 1779.

SIR, — As I have the misfortune to be a prisoner to the British troops, and being a stranger to you, suppose it is necessary for me to acquaint you with my situation, and the circumstances of my capture & military connections.

In the year 1776 I commanded a regiment that was raised in Connecticutt for the Continental service through the campaign. At the close of the campaign (my regiment being raised only for that year) I returned to my family in Connecticutt, and found that I was appointed to command the 4th Brigade of the militia of that State, extending from Stratford westerly to the Saw-Pitts (about 40 miles of sea-coast), & from thence up to the head of King Street & up by Pound-Ridge, Ridgefield, Danbury, & New-Fairfield. A situation much exposed & extreamly harrassed by the British troops through the warr to this time. In March, 1777, the enemy formed an expedition against Fairfield (where I lived) consisting of two ships of warr & 4 tenders, with about 500 troops on board. And about the same time they made descents on various other parts of the sea-coast under my command, which obliged me to call into service for our defence a large proportion of my brigade, which I commanded myself through the year 1777. I early received orders from Gov^{r} Trumbull to march & reinforce the Continental troops at Peekskill, &c., on the North River at any time when called for by the commanding officer. In April

* John Beatty was born in Bucks County, Penn., Dec. 19, 1749, graduated at Princeton College in 1769, studied medicine with Dr. Benjamin Rush, and shortly after the breaking out of the War of the Revolution entered the American army. In May, 1778, he was appointed Commissary General of Prisoners, with the rank of Colonel. In March, 1780, he resigned, and settled as a physician in Princeton, N. J. From 1783 to 1785 he was a member of Congress, and from 1795 until 1805 he was Secretary of State of New Jersey. He died in Trenton, N. J., April 30, 1826. (See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. i. p. 208). The copy from which this letter is printed is in the handwriting of General Silliman. — EDS.

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about 2,000 British troops landed in the westerly part of the township of Fairfield at a place called Compo, commanded by Gov^r Tryon, and made a forced march to Danbury & destroyed the publick stores, &c. On this occasion the whole brigade were called into service, but before the whole could reach the place of rendezvous the battle at Ridgefield happened on the 27^th April, between the British & a part of the brigade, in which General Wooster received a mortal wound. A very considerable part of the campaign I kept General Putnam reinforced with a large detachment from my brigade. In the begining of October I marched my whole brigade, and joined General Putnam at Fishkill, and was in service there about a month; about the 25^th November, pursuant to his orders, I marched again & joined him at East Chester in order to make an attack on the British lines at Kings-Bridge, but the design was not carried into execution, and I was discharged in December & returned home. In the month of January, 1778, I ordered the whole line of guards on the sea-coast & at Byram-Bridge to be releived by a new detachment from the brigade, and have constantly kept up that line of guards untill I was surprised at my own house in the night of the first of May last, and made a prisoner; sometimes indeed we have been assisted with guards from the army at two or three of the posts in this line, at times when they could be spared, which was not often, and sometimes when they were withdrawn, by troops raised in y^e State. But after I had ordered the guards to be releived, in January, 1778, I did not consider myself so in service as to charge any wages to the State for it, unless when I was obliged to spend a whole day at once about these matters. But dureing all that time till I was captivated, the guards constantly received their orders from me, and made their weekly returns to me; and it was very rare if any day past without an applica-

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tion to me from some officer or other that commanded at one or other of the different posts (near twenty in the whole) for orders for barracks, tents, provisions, ammunition, &c. This would appear clearly from my letter & orderly book. At the time that I was taken (and for two years before) I kept a laboratory under the care of a conductor, and then had people employed under him in makeing up cartriges, &c., &c. And from thence were issued supplies under my orders only for the guards from time to time; and for such other of the militia as were at times called out on duty. I constantly held the brigade prepared to march to repell the enemy wherever they should make a descent; or to join the army whenever I should be called on. About three months before I was taken, pursuant to a requisition from General Putnam, I caused a strict review of our arms, ammunition, &c., and put the brigade in readiness with four days provision, &c., to march at an hour's warning; and on his requisition marched to join him in the latter end of February last, when the British under the command of General Tryon made an irruption into Horse Neck in Connecticutt.

I lived within about one mile & an half of the seashore on a strait line, — as the roads went it was about two miles. In front of my house was a battery at the water-side, garrisoned by a Leiu^{t} & twenty three men. The party that took me came into a small bay about midnight & about one mile to y^{e} eastward of the battery, & so surprised me & my son, William Silliman, who was my Brigade Major, & acted as such throughout the whole time, & brought us off prisoners. He holds no commission in the line of the militia, nor any office except that of Brigade Major.

At the time that we were taken the battery before mentioned by my orders was under a thorough repair, under the immediate direction of my Brigade Major, who had procured timber & plank to make the plattforms entirely

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new; and intrenching tools to repair & rebuild the works with.

Thus, Sir, I have given you an exact account of the situation of myself & son at & before the time we were taken. As to myself I charged the State nothing for all these services since January, 1778, except as before mentioned. And yet the true state of the case is, that the line of guards were an advanced picket for that part of the State, and I was about a mile and an half in their reer. I was not allowed to leave this post, unless for a few days at a time, one time only excepted, thô I had several times solicited leave of absence to go abroad on my own business for five or six weeks at a time, but was denied by the Governour.

I have been thus particular in order to lay a foundation for you to judge whether our situation was not such at the time of our capture as to entitle me & my son to every privilege of exchange, &c., that any officer in actual service in every sense of the word is entitled to. It appears to me that we are, and trust that you will be of the same opinion & therefore hope y^{t} you will be kind enough to procure our exchange to be made in our proper turn. But if the matter of an exchange should be settled by Commissioners, I beg that you will be so kind as to lay our case properly before them. I have a wife & family at Fairfield in Connecticutt to whom I want to write sometimes, and wish to ask the favour of you to receive my letters under cover directed to you in order to be forwarded, if you could do it without too much trouble to yourself. A line in answer to let me know whether you can oblige me will be esteemed a particular favour,

By, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

G. Selleck Silliman.

Col^{o} Jn^{o} Beaty, Com^{y} Gen^{l} Prisoners.

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CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

A PHILADELPHIE, le 24 7^{bre}, 1779.

MONSIEUR, — Je suis arrivé il y a deux jours dans cette ville, et je proffite du prémier moment de repos dont j'ai pû jouir pour témoigner à votre Exellence, combien je suis recconnoissant de l'accueil que j'ai reçu d'elle à Hartfort, et de celui qu'elle m'a procuré dans le reste du Connecticut. J'ai eu de fréquentes occasions de regretter la précipitation avec laquelle j'ai été obligé de voyager. Cet état mérite d'être vû dans le plus grand détail; et je désire bien que les circonstances me permettent d'y retourner, et d'y voyager plus lentement. L'espoir de vous y retrouver, Monsieur, et d'y proffiter de vos lumieres sera un des principaux motifs qui m'y conduiront. On ne peut connoître trop particulierement un citoyen qui a si bien mérité de sa patrie. En attendant, Monsieur, permettez moi d'entretenir, quand les circonstances s'en présenteront, une corréspondance où il y aura tout à gagner pour moi.

J'ai lû avec un grand interêt le plan d'histoire de l'Amérique que vous avez bien voulu me communiquer. Ceux qui aiment la saine politique, et ceux qui aiment les lettres doivent egalement faire des vœux pour son exécution, et en mon particulier je désire bien vivement que votre Exellence veuille s'en occuper.

J'ai lû aussi, Monsieur, les questions relatives à l'état de la Colonie du Connecticut en 1773. Les réponses sont un modele de précision et de clarté. J'imagine qu'on a fait le même travail sur les différents Etats de l'Amérique et il seroit peut être à désirer qu'on en donnat connoissance au public.

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* Anne-César de la Luzerne, minister from France to the United States from 1779 to 1783, was born in 1741, at Paris, and died in London, where he was residing as ambassador from France, Sept. 14, 1791. (See Nouvelle Biographie Générale, tome 29, p. 38.) — EDS.

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J'ai l'honneur d'être, avec la considération la plus distinguée,

Monsieur,

de votre Excellence, le très humble

et très obéissant serviteur,

LE CHE. DE LA LUZERNE.

E. FOX TO JAMES FORBES.*

SIR, — Having this day returned from my captivity in New York, I take the earliest opertunity to acquaint you that a large embarkation is now taking place from thence & supposed to be for the State of Virginia. I have during my stay in York discovered that several of the Virginia reffugees are making preparations to go with this embarkation, not only with stores, but some with their families. The great preparations that were making for several days before I left the city indicated that the number of troops to be sent is considerable. Report says 8,000. Several ships were ordered to be in readiness to receive horses on board; & other concurring circumstances makes me believe that the opinion of the troops being intended for the West Indies is ill founded. Hearing that some of the delagates of Virginia intend home to-morrow, I have taken the liberty to mention this matter to you that if it deserves their attention you may acquaint them of it.

E. Fox.

Sept^{r} 24th, 1779.

To Hon^{bl} JAMES FORBS Esq^{r}.

Indorsed: 24th Sept., 1779. E. Fox's intelligence from N. York, *de* embarka^{n} 8,000 — for Virginia, inclosed in Delagates' letter 25th & 26th Sept.

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* James Forbes was one of the delegates from Maryland to the Continental Congress. — EDS.

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SAMUEL HUNTINGTON AND JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept^{r} 25th, 1779.

PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — Inclosed is an extract of a letter from M^{r} Fox, which is confirmed by similar accounts contained in a letter from Gen^{l} Washington. Capt^{n} Niles's papers & accoumpts have been laid before Congress & are referred to the Board of Treasury, who have not yet reported thereon. Proper attention will be paid to your Excellency's wishes respecting your son, & nothing will be wanting on our part to further them in case an appointment of the kind should be judged necessary. The new Minister of France, the Chaveleer de la Luzern, arrived here last Thursday, but has not yet been formally anounced to Congress. M^{r} Gerard will sail soon in the Confederacy for France. Our foreign affairs are bro^{t} nearly to a close.

The great business of finance grows daily more & more pressing & important. Some resolutions ascertaining the sum that will be necessary to supply the Treasury, assigning to the States their respective quotas, and fixing the time of payment, are under consideration & will soon be passed upon and transmitted to the States. There is not hard money in the Treasury, otherways your application would have been complied with.

No Journals have come out since our last. We send herewith a Code of the Jersey laws presented to us by that State through their delegates for the purpose of opening a communication of laws with the different States, also a pamphlet on finance wrote by M^{r} Webster.*

Sept^{r} 26th: Last evening an express arrived here from Charlestown, South Carolina, with despatches containing

* Pelatiah Webster published "An Essay on Free Trade and Finance," dedicated to Congress, in July, 1779, and a second essay on the same subject, dedicated to the State Legislatures, in Aug., 1779. — EDS.

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the most agreable advices of the arrival of the Count De Estange off the Savannah the 5th inst, with his fleet and a considerable land force, that he immediately sent an officer to the Governor of South Carolina & to General Lincoln to consult & settle the mode of attacking the enemy, which being concluded on was sent back to the Count; and the attack on Savannah was to be made on the 9th. This affords the most flattering prospects respecting Georgia & our affairs in that country. The assistance of the Count with his fleet will be of most essential service to us this campaign, provided he shall be at liberty to cooperate with us through the season, which we have reason to hope.

The large embarkation of 8,000 troops making at New York for the southward will probably be stoped.

Capt Taylor, a privateer from this port, has taken a transport ship with 350 Hessians on board, supposed to be a part of the detachment which saild some time past from New York & were returning on account of bad weather.

A woman was taken up at Reading in this State going from the Convention troops in Virginia to New York, had with her plans & charts of James river & the adjacent country.

We have the honor to be, with the highest esteem & respect, your Excellency's most obedt & most humble servants.

SAMLL HUNTINGTON.
JESSE ROOT.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 25th & 26th Sept., 1779. Honble Connect. Delegates, Huntington & Root, *de* Coun^{t} D'Estaing. Intelligence, &c., recd p Brown, 3d Octo mane.

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TIMOTHY PICKERING TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

(*Public service*) *His Excellency Governour Trumbull, Lebanon, Connecticut. War Office.*

WAR-OFFICE, Oct^{r} 5, 1779.

SIR, — We have been honoured with your letter of the 24th ult^{o}, informing of your receipt of 150 old gun barrels, 100 old gun locks & pieces, the first at 2/, the latter at 1/6. We are well pleased with the measure, and readily consent that you should receive from M^{r} Cheever any number more, not exceeding one thousand old muskets or gun barrels, including those already received. It may be proper to fix the terms on which they are to be received. The prices above mentioned are very inadequate: new muskets have lately cost us upwards of a hundred dollars; and the smiths here ask from sixteen to twenty pounds lawful money for a new musket barrel. We do not know upon what footing you would wish to receive the old muskets to repair: when favoured with your Excellency's sentiments on the subject, we can be more determinate in our answer. As we have plenty of such old materials, we should prefer selling what your State want upon a just appraisement. Two or three years since a considerable number of new French arms were delivered (we believe at your Excellency's request) for the use of your State. We shall be obliged to your Excellency for information respecting the disposition of them.

We have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's very obedient servants.

By order of the Board.

TIM: PICKERING.

His Excellency Governour TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: Hon^{ble} Tim^{o} Pickering, War Office, *de* old guns & gun bb^{s} & locks, rec^{d} 18th ins^{t}, vespere.

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HENRY LAURENS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, 19th Octob., 1779.

DEAR SIR, — Since the date of my last of the 26th Septem. I have not been honoured with any of your Excellency's favors. After repeated tenders to Congress of the letters which your Excellency desired should be presented to the House, I obtained about a week ago a commitment of them without reading. Yesterday I put them into the hands of Mr President Huntington, when they were read & again committed, therefore they are now out of my reach, otherwise they should have accompanied this; the translation of the Dutch book goes on slowly, Mr Mecklenburg, who was so obliging as to undertake to get that work performed, says the translator is nevertheless not idle.

I should have explained on the first above mentioned commitment by saying the Committee had made a favorable report on the letters & then returned them into my hands. I was desirous because you seem to have been so, & because the letters deserved attention, to have them read in full Congress. This was done yesterday & thence came the second commitment.

When I said to your Excellency in my last "*were he my son I should dissuade him,*" I had no idea that *my* son would indeed be made, without his knowledge, a candidate for the very place your son wished for. My declaration was very sincere & my subsequent conduct consistent therewith. I do not believe Colo Laurens will accept the appointment which Congress have elected him to.* I have written to him desiring he will not determine until he shall have given me an opportunity of

* Congress voted, Oct. 14, 1779, "That the first blank in the commission for the secretary to the minister at the court of Versailles be filled with 'John Laurens, esquire, member of the house of representatives for the state of South Carolina, and lieutenant colonel in the army of the United States.'" See Secret Journals of Congress, vol. ii. p. 277. — EDS.

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conferring with him & communicating a faithful & accurate state of our affairs, foreign & domestic. If it shall please God to favor me with such an interview, & that my son can read my heart, he will return thanks to Congress & decline accepting the intended honor. At the same time, I must confess that, as far as I know him, he does not want qualifications for filling the office of Secretary to a foreign embassy with credit; but a man tender of his reputation will well consider the times before he accepts of *a place.*

Your Excellency's packet addressed to the Baron Van der Capellen is committed to the protection of Mons^r^ Gerard, with a particular request to convey it in such manner as to avoid a heavy expence of postage. M. Gerard is now on board the Confederacy at Chester, & will sail with the first fair wind, probably this day.

If the intelligence which we have received through various channels of the Count d'Estaing's success at South Carolina & Georgia shall prove true, those States will enjoy a temporary tranquility & the enemy will feel the weight of a heavy loss & severe mortification; according to those accounts, we have ground for expecting to hear of the Admiral's arrival at Sandyhook or Rhode Island to day or to morrow. All this looks very fair, but alas! alas! we are threatned with an empty Treasury before the 1^st^ day of December. Vigoros & virtuos exertions of the citizens of these States, immediately put into action, must so far heal the wound given by rash, bad policy as to save us from a violent convulsion. Your Excellency has before this day seen the plan of ways & means; the medicine is rather rude, but if it be taken in time & in chearful spirits it may produce much relief, but cannot perform a radical cure; how is that possible when the expenditures continue to increase beyond the stretch of the amazing expected returns of 15 Mil. per month. It will however afford us a little time for breathing & recol-

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lection, & will stimulate the States to look a little more narrowly into things which concern their temporal salvation.

I am, with the utmost esteem & regard,
Sir, your Excellency's
obedient & most humble servant.
HENRY LAURENS.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.
Connecticut.

Indorsed: Hon^ble Henry Laurens, Esq^r, *de* Baron Van Der Capellen's letters. My answer. Com^tees recommitted — his son & mine — Carolina & Georgia intelligence — Expenditures will exhaust the Treas^y by 1^st Decem^r, rec^d 31^st inst vespere.

MONSIEUR DE VALNAIS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

BOSTON, Octo^r 19, 1779.

SIR, — By my last advices from Philadelphia, I find that I am in immediate want of a quantity of beef and pork, for the use of his Most Christian Majesties fleet, and as Daniel Bell, Esq., who is regularly appointed the agent to procure a supply for the above mentioned purpose, intends to send suitable persons into the State of Connecticut to purchase those articles, I am to request that full credit may be given to his certificates and attestations, and that the bearers thereof may not in any way be impeded in their business, either in purchasing those articles, or in their conveying them to Boston, but that all necessary aid and assistance may be afforded them, that a sufficient supply may soon be obtained, as the interest of these States, as well as that of his most Christian Majesty may be greatly affected thereby.

I have the honor to be, with great regard, Sir,
Your most humb^e serv^t.
DE VALNAIS,
Consul of France.

His Excellency Gov^r TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 19 Oct., 1779. Mons^r De Valnais, Consul of France at Boston, *de* Beef & Pork, rec^d 23^d inst vespere, p M^r Shubael Hewes.

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JOSEPH NOURSE* TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

TREASURY OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, October 22, 1779.

SIR, — By a Resolution of Congress of the 14 of January last, it being provided that a sufficient number of proof sheets of the new bills then ordered to be emitted should be struck and sent with the signatures of each signer to the Assemblies of the respective States, to be lodged by them under proper regulations in public offices in the several Counties, Towns and Districts, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the United States; the Board of Treasury have so far carried this Resolution in effect as to have caused a sufficient number of proof sheets of the said bills, and also of the emission of September 26, 1778, to be lodged with the Treasurer in order to be sent to the several States. Part of the said sheets are transmitted to the States without the signatures and the same measures will be adopted with the residue as it is found by experience that each signer so often varies his writing that the signature of one day differs materially from that of the next, and would afford very little assistance in detecting counterfeits; but the advantages of having the proof sheets dispersed in every part of the United States being such that each inhabitant thereof, who may suspect a counterfeit bill, may with little trouble to himself be thus enabled to compare it with the standard and detect the person passing the same. The Board request your Excellency to communicate their desire to the Assembly of your

* Joseph Nourse was born in London, England, July 16, 1754, and died near Georgetown, D. C., Sept. 1, 1841. He entered the American army as military secretary to General Lee in 1776, and was afterward clerk and paymaster of the Board of War, Assistant Auditor General, and Register of the United States Treasury. See Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, vol. iv. p. 541. — EDS.

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State that the Resolution referred to may be carried into effect as early as possible.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
Your Excellency's most obed^{t} servant,
(By order of the Board)
JOSEPH NOURSE,
As^{t} Aud^{r} Gen^{l}.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL,
Connecticut.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO MONSIEUR DE VALNAIS.

SIR, — Your favour of the 19th inst is duly received by M^{r} Hu agent to M^{r} Bell. I shall gladly comply with any request that seems to promise the furtherance of the interest of his Most Christian Majesty & of these States; but the plan of obtaining the supply of provisions, mentioned in your letter, apears to me inelligable.

The Com^{y} Gen^{l} of the American army has agents in every town & district in this State, who have orders to purchase all the pork that is for market, & a certain quantity of beef; should another set of purchasers, independant of him, be authorised to buy, it would immediatly create a rivalship betwixt them, & serve to enhance the price of meat without increasing its quantity. This evil we experienced last fall when M^{r} Price contracted to supply the fleet at Boston with meat & flour; it raised those articles 25 p c^{t}, tho' that did not enable him to victual the fleet. Great part of their supplies were finally drawn from the public magazines. You may depend on my stating your demands to the Com^{y} Gen^{l}, & advising his supplying the squadron with every necessary article. Should he decline, you may depend on every assistance from me which prudence & a regard for the interest of his Most Christian Majesty can dic-

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tate. In the mean time I must advise your informing him or Peter Colt, Esq., of Weathersfield, who acts as his Deputy, both in this State & Massachusetts, of the quantities of salted beef pork & vegitables which are wanted for the fleet.

I am, Sir,
Your most obd. servant.

Indorsed: Copy of Letter to Mon^{s} De Valnais at Boston, Oct. 25, 79.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO HENRY LAURENS.

HARTFORD, 1st Novem^{r}, 1779.

DEAR SIR, — I have the honor & pleasure of your favor under the 19th ult^{o}. I believe it necessary to apologize for the trouble I seem to have given by my forreign correspondence committed to your care; the best apologey, however, is that it is intended for the *public good*. The seeming inattention of Congress gives me occasion to observe to you what I have for a long time noted in my own mind with a degree of anxiety, — that the too great attention paid by Congress to the executive branch of business gives them too little time for the more important part of their duty, the deliberative considerations, which ought to be perhaps their principal concern.

Your mention of the manner in which *your* son was appointed to the place with which he is honored removes every doubt which could have entered my mind on the occasion. Rest assured, my dear Sir, I am perfectly easey on that score.

I am much obliged by your care in forward^{g} my letter to M^{r} Van der Capellen. Permit me to trouble you with another favor with which I have been honord from that worthy patriot. I wish it to be translated with the others.

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Our expectations of the Count D'Estaing have been long delayed; we hear nothing yet of his arrival on our coast. The evacuation of New Port by the enemy, in a precipitate & very extraordinary manner, is an event of much moment to this part of the country; whether the enemy, by this movement, have in view the collect^{s} their strength in one point to oppose any intended operations against N. York, whether they have a design with their collected strength to seize some favorable moment to strike an important blow, or whether they are pick^{s} themselves up in order to remove in a collected body from the continent, a little further time must decide.

I sincerely lament the prospect before us respect^{s} our finances; whether the remedy applying by Congress will prove the radical cure we wish, I will not absolutely decide. I wish however the aspect in my view had a more favorable appearance. A remedy I think, however, might be applied, a remedy simple, easy, & perfectly right; in short, two words will express it. Do Justice. If our circumstances will not admit of the full & imediate operation of this remedy, let our credit be assured in the best & most absolute terms that it shall be done. Do away false measures & false weights; fix the currency if it can be done; if not, fix a standard measure by which the variation may be ascertained & let that variation be constantly made up. Continue the present currency a legal tender to all intents & purposes, but when so issued let the quantity tendered make up the want of quality or value; make good all contracts equal to the value contracted; remove the deception of sounds; & let not nominal value attempt to drown the idea of intrinsic worth; in short use this *substitute* for money as it ought to be used, measuring it by some real standard. In this track I think our political safety must be pursued; we have tried too many devious paths already, the more we deviate, the further we stray. The only sure way in my

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mind is the simple road of justice & equity, & in that only shall we find our security. Great resources might be found from internal loans, were those loans on proper footing. How long are the lenders to want the *assurance* that the *value* lent shall be justly repaid, or secured? Was this assurance given in positive times the present creditors would be perfectly easey, & might be induced to trust large further sums. Till that I think all prospect from loans must fail.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

HARTFORD, 1st Novemr, 1779.

GENTLEMEN, — Your favor of 5th Octo has been duly received, & have applied to Mr Cheever for further supply of old arms, to make up the 1,000 mentioned in your letter. Their prices of 2/- & 1/6 as heretofore fixed, I understand to be in L. money, agreable to its value in 1774, which will not be so far inadequate, perhaps, as you have imagined.

I am told a quantity of the arms taken with Genl Burgoyne, are still at Springfield to be disposed of; will it be permitted this State to receive any number of those arms, & acco for them at any just appraizement? A quantity of sulphur & petre, also under care of Mr Cheever to be wrought into powder, may possibly be manufactured in this State to great advantage. An excellent mill for the purpose is erected at Glassenbury on the Connecticut River, where conveyance by water from Springfield is very easey. On application from Genl Washington this State have encouraged him to be supplied with 10 or 15 tons gunpowder. If a quantity of the above sulphur & petre may be had, we are willing to receive it on acco of the powder, or otherways as may be agreed.

Hon. Board of Warr.

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MONSIEUR DE VALNAIS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull, Hartford.

BOSTON, Novr 3d, 1779.

SIR, — I have received your favour of the 25th ult., and observe the contents.

I thank you for every expression of regard for the interest of his Most Christian Majesty, but cannot think that the method you propose for the supplying of the fleet is so well calculated to promote that interest, as the plan adopted by me, and which appears to you "unelligable." If liberty had been given for the purchasing of live stock, effectual care would have been taken that the purchasers for the King should not have needlessly enhanced the prices, nor appeared in the character of rivals. What provisions they could have obtained would have been drove down, with a small expence, and put up with salt already provided, which article is much cheaper here than with you. But upon the plan which your Excellency proposes, it will be extremely difficult to procure teams; an extra commission will be incurred, and the price of carting will raise the provisions to the King full twenty pr cent, besides employing a larger number of oxen to bring the provisions than we should want from your State for the completion of our quantity. For the above reasons, and for others which might be mentioned, I must depend upon your kind promise that you will afford "every assistance which prudence, and a regard for the interest of his Most Christian Majesty can dictate."

I am, Sir,

Your most obdt, humb. servt.

DE VALNAIS.

His Excellency Govr TRUMBULL.

P. S. The Captains of the French ships who have put up to New London Harbour complain they have receiv'd

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no assistance from the inhabitants there; as they were in distress I beg of your Excellency the favour to request of the said inhabitants that they would not take any advantage from their unhappy situation, but on the contrary to afford them all the succour & support that they are in right to expect among civilized nations, and that humanity instead of interest would govern 'em in favour of those unhappy Frenchmen.

Indorsed: 3 Nov^{r}, 1779. Mons^{r} De Valnais, French Consul at Boston, rec^{d} 24th ins^{t}, answered.

THADDEUS BURR TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

FAIRFIELD, November 5th, 1779.

SIR, — At a legal Town Meeting held in this town in Sept^{r} last, it was unanimously voted; that the town disapproved of the practice of boats going to Long Island and plundering the inhabitants; and directed me to write to your Excellency to request that you would grant commissions for no more boats this way. Last Tuesday some of the civil authority and selectmen being meet, were informed, that some boats had landed and plundered several of the inhabitants in a most cruel manner, enquired of me whether I had wrote to your Excellency agreable to the vote of the town. I told them that my great hurry in geting a little place to cover me had hitherto prevented me; upon which they urged and directed that I should not fail to write your Excellency by this post, and inform you that last week three boats, under the sanction of commissions granted to Cap^{t} Sam^{l} Lockwood, Cap^{t} Hawley and others, landed on Long Island, plundered several persons, perticularly Co^{l} Benjamin Floyd, who is our prisoner on parole there, whom they treated very cruelly and plundered him of five or six hundred pounds hard money and all his wearing apparel and household fur-

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niture. That the town, as such, not only disapprove of such conduct from principle, but are alarmed with respect to their own safety, as nothing can be expected but retaliation, which is every day in their power. That unless a stop can be put to this practice the inhabitants on the sea coast of this town will be under a necessity to move back, and leave the little interest they had left them. That they therefore request and desire that your Excellency would not only not grant any more commissions to boats this way, but would call in the commissions which are already out. That did your Excellency know the bad use there is made of them, by lending them to one and another who care for nothing but plundering, and the distress and uneasiness it gives the inhabitants among us, they doubt not but you would immediately call in the commissions already granted, and stay your hand from giving out any more.

Your compliance with this request will greatly oblige the town.

I am, with due respect and esteem,
in behalf of the town.
Your Excellency's friend & very hum. s^t^.
THADDEUS BURR.

Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 5^th^ Nov., 1779. Thad^s^ Burr, Esq^r^, *de* armed whale boats plundering, rec^d^ 17^th^ inst.

JESSE ROOT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov^r^ 12^th^, 1779.

PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — Providence by another striking instance has reproved our confidence in an arm of flesh and taught us the vanity of humane power, however great, to insure success, has defeated our flattering prospects to the southward & tumbled our touring expectations to the ground. By dispatches from

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Gen^{l} Lincoln to Congress the combined armies of America & France under Gen^{l} Lincoln & the Count de Estaing laid siege to Savanna, opened their batteries on the 5th of Oct^{r}, & continued the siege with little intermission untill the 8th of Oct^{r}, without bringing the enimy to surrender, and the time being elapsed which the Count had liberty to stay, no alternative was left but to raise the siege or attempt to carry the town by storm. The latter was concluded upon, the necessary preparations were made, and in the morning of the 9th ult^{o} they attempted to storm the place and were unfortunately repulsed with considerable loss. Precise returns are not transmitted, but Gen^{l} Lincoln says in his letter he had about 174 killed & wounded. Count de Estaing is wounded in two places. He behaved with great spirit on the occasion, & appeared greatly chagrined at the misfortune. Count Poulaski is killed, & the loss of the French is said to be between three & four hundred killed & wounded. The French troops have reimbarked on board their ships & Gen^{l} Lincoln has retired to South Carolina & left the enemy in possession of Georgia. The French army consisted of three thousand; the troops under Gen^{l} Lincoln between one & two thousand; the enemy, after Col. Maitland joined them, were about 3,000 strong. The Lord reigneth, who will make us to know that the glory of our salvation he will not divide with another. I believe such disappointments are necessary, & that which now appears to be a misfortune will prove the means of our final safety. Your Excellency's letter respecting the monthly requisitions of the State of Connecticut has been laid before Congress & is committed; how successfull it will be am unable to determine, as almost every reason suggested therein were urged by the delegates in Congress against so large a sum, at the time of making the requisition. However, shall do every thing in my power to have the sum reduced. By several letters

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rec^{d} we were able to satisfy Congress of our right to sit in Congress & now hold our seats their, althoug we have received no official information. M^{r} Sherman is returning home. I expect to leave Congress about the 25th inst., before which time I expect to be releived. M^{r} Laurence left this last Saturday to go to Charlestown, from whence he is to go to Holland to negociate a treaty of amity & commerce with those Provinces & to obtain a loan. He was gone before M^{r} Brown arrived. The President took your letters directed to M^{r} Laurence. Since writing this letter Gen^{l} Lincoln letter is published in the paper to which I refer your Excellency for a particular acct; and am, most respectfully,

Your Excellency's most obed^{t}, humble servant.

JESSE ROOT.

P. S. Col^{o} Jonth Trumbull is appointed a Commissioner on the Board of Treasury during the pleasure of Congress, with a salary of 14,000 dollars p^{r} annum.

His Excellency Gov^{r} TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 12th Nov., 1779. Hon^{o} Jesse Root, *de* Georgia, M^{r} Sherman returning, M^{r} Laurens gone, Jonth Trumbull, Jun^{r}, Esq^{r}, a Comissioner of the Treasury.

MONSIEUR DE VALNAIS TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

SIR, — I have received your Excellency's letter of the 26th of Novemb^{r}.

All thoughts of Count D'Estaing coming to Boston harbour being now over, at least for this year, I have accordingly no more want of provisions from the State of Connecticut for the present.

Permit me to thank you for the very just observations you have been pleased to adress me in your letters. Unacquainted with the country in which you live, I have, I sincerely own it, misapprehended entirely your meaning. I applaud very much to the method you have

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pointed out in your last, and whenever occasion will require me to apply to the State of Connecticut for provisions I shall strictly follow your kind instructions.

As to the postscript of my last, I am not prejudiced in favour of my countrymen; the liberality of my sentiments won't admitt I should believe what they say more than the *Americans*. The losses the owners in France must suffer by the distresses those ships have been in are of so great a nature to them, that it occasioned me to write to you on their account, in order to prevent any abuses be committed by some individuals on the Frenchmen, captains of the said ships.

Of publick indulgencies, I acknowledge that the French nation has in many instances experienced every favour from the United States, as well as from each State in particular. I am sorry to hear that the agent for the ships, whom I don't know, has bid personnally at the vendues. I write by this post to the French captains for to prevent such abuses be committed hereafter by their agent, and you may rely upon my honour that if such thing happen at the general vendue on the 6th of this month, I shall take care the said offenders (if Frenchmen) be punished exemplarily. I beg you would let it me know.

Give me leave to add, I will at all times do my utmost on my part in order to preserve that harmony & amity between the two nations which are so necessary to the welfare of both.

I am, with the greatest regard,

Sir, your Excellency's

most obedient & humble servt.

DE VALNAIS, *Consul of France.*

BOSTON, 2d Decembr, 1779.

His Excellency Governour TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: 2d December, 1779. Monsr De Valnais, Consul of France, *de* purchase of provisions, the vendue at N. London, harmony, &c., recd 9th instant.

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JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

LEBANON, 13th December, 1779.

MY DEAR SIR, — I have the pleasure to have receiv'd yours of the 12th of November by Brown, in which you mention your having open'd my last to the Honle Mr Laurens. I entirely approve your having taken that liberty, and am only to request that you will be pleas'd to forward to me by Brown's return the papers which were enclos'd in that, as well as in a former one to Mr Laurens with their translations. My correspondence with the Baron V. D. Capellan, I have the vanity to believe has not been entirely without advantage to my country. But whatever may be its consequences, and whatever the opinions of my countrymen, I have at least one pleasure in reflecting that my intentions have been altogether upright and liberal. I have entertained a hope that the Baron who appears so warmly our friend would have receiv'd some honorary notice of gratitude from Congress, — perhaps, indeed, it may not be even now too late, nor even till now an intentional neglect.

I have likewise to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 22nd November, enclosing a Resolution of Congress recommending a new and general limitation of prices. You know what have ever been my principles on this subject, and I scarcely need say that I now, as much as ever, dread the consequences of the attempt. And besides my objection to limitations in every shape, the present is too violent and extensive. The rate of 20 for 1 is so low as will reduce many articles near one half from their present price, and is a degree of appreciation too great and too sudden to be borne even by its favourers, if in its own nature, appreciation were at any time or in any

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manner to be effected; beside that it must inevitably cause more oppression and injustice than have ever been deriv'd from the past depreciation. The memory of our struggles for the redemption of our Old Tenor affords a fine lesson to us in our present situation, and the course which was then discover'd (after repeated fruitless and tedious attempts for more than 20 years) will be found at length to be the only one by which the Commonwealth can be steer'd thro' the sea of disorder and confusion in which she is now toss'd.

I conceive it to be our first business to do justice on the principles which I suggested to M^r^ Laurens of making good our contracts, both public and private, and establishing the currency as a tender, not for ideal and nominal, but real and intrinsic value. And after having adjusted our tables of valuation, it is then our next step to lay taxes for the redemption of the current bills, to be paid positively at fix'd and certain periods. And next to this the most absolute and definite promises should be given for the encouragement of internal loans. Certainty of payment is all that is wanted. And I have no doubt but immense sums, sufficient even for our enormous current expenditures would soon be rec'd in the offices, were the people once fully satisfied they should receive a value equivalent to what they deposit, with the interest of 6 per cent in similar value. At least we should receive so much as would give us the power of destroying a considerable part of what should be collected in taxes.

If a plan of this kind were adopted, mankind, ceasing to find their imaginary interest advanc'd by such a method, would not only cease to encourage a further depreciation, but on the contrary would at once conspire, on natural principles, to promote as great and as rapid an appreciation as ought ever to take place. We have for a long time gone on in the preposterous, and I know not whether I may not add the uncharitable and the illiberal

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supposition that the inhabitants of this country are possess'd of more virtue, and are less govern'd by motives of self interest, than the inhabitants of other countrys and of different ages. But we must at length acknowledge that *we are but men.* Our political systems have been too long form'd upon the hypothesis, "that the people are virtuous," whereas all exertions of government ought to be founded on this axiom, "that mankind are vicious," and influenc'd only by this one first principle of their nature, love of their own good. The art of government, therefore, is to render individual and public good inseperable, and to *lead* men thro' their own interest to advance the interest of their country.

For the redemption of our Loan Certificates and foreign debts it will be next our duty to establish funds and stocks on liberal and fix'd principles, with this precaution, — that whatever bills may be necessarily emitted for those purposes bear on their face the conditions of credit and the absolute promise of payment, without reference to unseen Resolutions of Congress, and an additional reserve against the possibility of their depreciation.

Excuse me that my anxiety leads me into a train of thought which is not new to you, and which I have already often (perhaps too often) repeated. But I cannot bear the idea of standing with folded arms, an idle spectator of measures which appear to me at once unjust and ruinous. But I forbear, and am, my dear Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

J. T——L.

P. S. Our General Assembly is adjourned to the 6th Jan^{y} next. Shall expect an answer to the letter sent p Brown, dated 2nd Nov^{r} ult.

Hon^{o} Samuel Huntington, Esquire, President in Congress.

Indorsed: N^{o} 12. 13th December, 1779. To President Huntington, *de* my letters to M^{r} Laurens and general limitation of prices. P M^{r} Brown.

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PETER COLT TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — I find myself obliged in duty to the good people of this State, to lodge an information against the owners & managers of the *Powder Works* at New Haven, that will greatly effect their characters as honest men, or knowledge in the mistery of their profession. In the course of a few months I have purchased on account of self & friends of M^r^ Isaac Doolittle 3,300 lb. gun powder, 2,900 lb. of which have been sent to Boston for the use of privateers, every cask of which have been condemned, & what was sold has been returnd. Upon its being proved it fell short as follows, 1,400 lb. was proved with powder that carried a ball 75 yards, whilst that from M^r^ Doolittle's works, & which he assured me was made in the best manner, carried a ball only 25 yards, & some cask only 15 yds. The other parcel of 1,500 was proved with powder that carried the ball 100 yards, a greater proportion of powder being used; the same quantity of our powder carried the ball only 32 yds, some of the cask only thirty yards; so that the whole of both parcels were condemned as utterly unfit for use. This is such a manifest piece of knavery or ignorance in a branch of business where, not only the character of State is concerned, but the interest & lives of the people, that it merits the immediate attention & interfearance of the Legislature. Your Excellency will recollect that the forts & militia of the western part of the State are chiefly supplied with this necessary article of defence from those works, & on that account excuse the trouble of this information. I would only further observe that M^r^ Barrel wrote us, that the same quantity of powder, made at Andover by M^r^ Philips, carried

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a ball 125 yds when Mr Doolittle's did not exceed 25 yds.*

Your Excellency will excuse my laying before you the ruinous state of the Commissary Department. For some time I have been greatly cramped in my measures for want of cash, and for nearly a month past have been wholly destitute, at the very season when the most steady & unremiting exertions were necessary for keeping up the supplies for daily consumption, & filling the magazines for next campain. Unluckily Colo Champion, who agreed to furnish beef cattle to barel, has been so wretchedly supplied with cash, that he has wholly stoped his supplies, tho little more than half the quantity of beef directd is put into barels. This with my want of cash, which prevents my people from securing the pork, will prevent our establishing magazines of salted meat as ordered and expected. With respect of bread, we are still in a worse predicament. The fine crops of wheat in Maryland are ruined *since harvest* by the fly; in Pensilvania & Jerseys, the crops were greatly damaged by *blast.* Wheat in those States is selling at 40 dollrs, some as high as 50 dollrs, p bushel. The late drouth has in those States & N. York so damedged the crops, now *on the ground,* that the farmers are renderd on that account more unwilling to thresh & sell the present crops. Those causes, & many mills being idle for want of water, has prevented our feeding the main army. They are greatly distressed for want of bread. Genl Poor's brigo are frequently wholly without bread; the troops at Horse Neck

* At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety, Dec. 20, 1779, the following action was taken, "Whereas complaint is made to his Excellency the Governor of great insufficiency in the quality and strength of the powder made, making and sold out at the powder manufactory at New Haven: Resolved, that James Wadsworth and Andrew Ward, Esqrs, be and they are hereby appointed a committee to essay the powder made and making at the said manufactory, and enquire into the causes of any deficiency that may appear to be in the quality of the same, and make report to his Excellency the Governor of their proceedings therein as soon as conveniently may be, that proper order may be taken thereon." See Public Records of Connecticut, May, 1778–April, 1780, pp. 446, 447. — Eds.

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& Stanford are starving; from thence to Providence there is no deposit of flour of any consequence. Under these circumstances without cash, or even the promise of it, without credit, & the fears of a regulating act, it cannot be expected that I should procure bread for the troops without the aid of government. The people are not willing to turn out the one third of the late assesment, as they pretend that was only for the 4,000 militia, in case they were called into actual service. Your Excellency will please favour me with your advice & directions, & thereby oblige your

most obedient servant.

PETER COLT.

His Excellency JON^{T} TRUMBULL, Esquire.

Indorsed by Gov. Trumbull: 16th Decem., 1779. Peter Colt, Esq^{r}, D. C. G. Pur^{s}, *de* New Haven Powder, &c., rec^{d} 19th ins.

ROGER SHERMAN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec^{r}, 20th, 1779.

SIR, — Your Excellency's letter to Congress respecting the lessening the State's quota of the monthly taxes, and retaining the money raised on the last continental tax, was referred to a committee who report as to the first that it would be attended with great difficulty and inconvenience to alter the quotas of any of the States, and that the state of the continental treasury will not admit of a compliance with the latter. They have reported to allow continental pay and rations to militia raised for the defence of the State.

The report has not been acted on by Congress, tho' I have moved several times to have it considered. I suppose it will be accepted. There are very great complaints of the want of money in every department, and Congress depends wholly on the several States for sup-

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plies, except what comes into the loan offices. Warrants will be drawn on the several States for the monies that will become due by the first of January, and unless they are punctually answered very disagreable consequences may be expected. I was not here when Congress resolved not to emitt bills of credit beyond the amount of two hundred million dollars, but what remains of that is not near sufficient to discharge the debts contracted by the commissaries & quarter masters; some warrants have been already drawn on the State treasuries, and if there is not a very vigorous exertion of the States to aid in procuring supplies, not only of money but provisions, the army cannot be kept together. Congress has resolved to call on the several States for their quotas of the supplies in kind, that are necessary for carrying on the war, and to credit all articles of the same kind & quality at the same prices, and other at proportionate prices. The estimates and quotas are now preparing, and as soon as any State agrees and is prepared to procure its quota all purchases by commissaries and quarter masters in such State is to be discontinued.

As to the quota of the monthly taxes, if Connecticut had not suffered any by the enemy its just quota would not have exceeded 1,400,000 dollars, and North Carolina's ought to have been the same, whereas but 1,000,000 dollars per month is required of that State. I have heard of no complaint from any State except Connecticut as to the apportionment, and several of the States, if not all, have actually passed laws for raising the money, so that it would be difficult to alter the proportions; if the Hon^{ble} Assembly of our State dont think proper to raise the whole, I should think it would be best to raise about 1,400,000 dollars per month, and trust to supplying the deficiency by economy in expenditures, or some other way.

Col. Wadsworth's resignation of his office of Commissary General is accepted, and Col. Blaine is appointed,

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but has not given his answer; & Col. Wadsworth and his deputies are requested to continue until a new one is ready to transact the business. General Green has requested leave to resign the office of Quarter Master General, but it is not yet granted. Jonathan Trumbull, jun^{r}, Esq^{r}, is elected a member of the Board of Treasury, the other members are present, transacting the business and are very desirous to have him joyn them. I dont learn that he has yet given an answer. I suppose he has been duly notified of the appointment. I wish he may accept it. The salary, tho' it sounds high, is really low as prices are at present; but it is the intention of Congress that the members of that Board should have adequate salaries. I hope we shall before long return to our old standard of lawful money. A committee, consisting of a member from each State, reported to recommend to the several States to revise their laws making the paper currency a tender, and frame them so as to prevent injustice to the debtors or creditors, but it has not yet passed Congress. In copying the resolutions recommending a general limitation of prices, the Secretary omitted that approving the doings of the Hartford Convention; the whole are contained in the enclosed paper. Those resolutions passed *nem. con.;* the good effect expected from them is to reduce the prices to a level in all the States, with expectation that by the operation of taxes they may be kept so, and even reduced below the limitation.

We have had no official accounts from Europe since the Minister of France came from thence. The enclosed papers contain our latest accounts from London. The Secretary says that he transmits the Journals of Congress monthly to each State. M^{r} Ellsworth arrived here last Wednesday. M^{r} Huntington and he are well. I want to return home, wish Col. Dyer or another of the delegates would come as soon as possible. We ought to have three at least constantly attending.

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The Assembly of Pennsylvania have passed a resolve to apply to the Assembly of Connecticut to submit the controversy respecting the disputed territory to be decided agreable to the Articles of Confederation. I wish that controversy and every other of like kind were settled right, but doubt whether this is a suitable time to have it duly attended to.

I am, with the greatest respect,
Your Excellency's humble servant.
ROGER SHERMAN.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

WILLIAM LIVINGSTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esqr, Governor, &c., of the State of Connecticut.

MOUNT HOLLY, Decr, 1779.

SIR, — The inclosed is a translation of a letter I lately received from Baron Van Der Capellen, of which he desires me to communicate to your Excellency such parts as I think proper. In order fully to answer his expectations, & discharge the trust reposed in me, I have transcribed the whole letter, except a paragraph or two which personally concerns himself; and in which he recounts the persecution he has met with for his exertions in the cause of America.

All his letters to me, except the one above mentioned, and all the pamphlets to which he refers me have unfortunately miscarried; & I fear are fallen into the hands of the enemy, which will probably give a new edge to the malevolent spirit with which his adversaries pursue his ruin. I consider him as a valuable correspondent, whose acquaintance it behoves me to cultivate were it only for the public advantage that may be derived from an epistolary intercourse with a gentleman of such extensive

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information respecting the affairs of his Republic, a Republic, to me, the most intricate in its construction, & the most villainous imposition upon the rights of mankind, of any that I have met with.

I shall be obliged to your Excellency for acknowledging the receipt of this letter, that I may be assured to have effectually discharged the agreeable office with which our illustrious correspondent has honoured me.

There is nothing new in this quarter that deserves your Excellency's notice. The state of our finance is to me a source of daily and nightly disquiet. Every expedient hitherto adopted seems too slow in its operation. But your Excellency will not mistake me that I dispond. No, Sir, never. I despise the little mind that shrinks before peril, as much as I admire the daring spirit which stands collected

"while dangers thicken round."

Providence has ever done most for us when we were best convinced of the inadequacy of our own resources; and, tho' the allusion is a little bizarre, I can assure you that our military situation hath never given me more alarm, than our pecuniary one does now. I hope the States will adopt the limitation of prices, and be in a condition to pay the taxes of this year at the day. If any part is ready, that they will help Congress along for a little at present; as laying in the magazines for the ensuing campaign, which must be done tho' there may be some probability of a peace, is what principally creates the present embarrasment. When this is reasonably well expedited, the Congress, I hope, will see their way plainer; and in raising the next year's quota, place the first payment at as early a day as possible, the beginning of February, if practicable. I am fully persuaded that we can, with proper diligence & exertion, turn the tide of depreciation notwithstanding its present impetuosity. By the united

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efforts of the States, & some measures of less consequence taken & taking by Congress, I flatter myself with the event.

Please to accept of my ardent wishes for the continuance of your personal happiness, & eminent success in your arduous station; & in the number of your Excellency's most humble & obedient servants to place

WIL: LIVINGSTON.

His Excellency Governor TRUMBULL.

Indorsed: December, 1779. Gov^r Livingston, enclosing his Letter from Baron V. D. Capellen, rec^d 22^nd January, 80.

Translation of Part of a Letter from Baron Van der Capellen to Governor Livingston.

AMSTERDAM, 16^th July, 1779.

HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON.

SIR, — Understanding by Colo^l Diricks that the Dutch language is familiar to your Excellency, I take the liberty of addressing your Excellency in it. I read English very well, but have not hitherto, through want of opportunity, applied myself to write it.

I have found myself most highly honoured by your Excellency's letter of the 30 November, 1778, and hope that by my answer to Governor Trumbull in December & January last, you will already have seen how sensible I am of those demonstrations of respect with which they have been pleased repeatedly to honour me in America. This kindness I have not deserved. What I did from the meer love of liberty and a conviction of the cause of your brave countrymen, respecting the loan of the Scotch-brigade to the King of England, deserves not the least gratitude. It was my duty, to the utmost of my power, to prevent our troops from being employed to shed innocent blood: and for this America owes me no greater acknowledgments than are due to a judge who pronounces

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his sentence in favour of the party who is in the right. It is true my advice has plunged me into many difficulties; and I still feel the effects of the unappeasable hatred which it has excited in some, against my person; but am nevertheless convinced by the sequel, that all I said was true, and that all I predicted has come to pass. The approbation however of my conduct with the most estimable part of the people I accept as an ample recompence, and it will afford me everlasting satisfaction that when so early as the 16 December, 1775, and when no mortal could foresee such speedy and happy effects from the enterprize of the Americans, yea at the time when they had not the appearance of a people, I declared myself for them openly and in my public character.

Your Excellency had no occasion to be sollicitous about curing me of any prejudices which I might have imbibed by the artifices of the enemies of America. I have remained altogether uncontaminated with such biasses. But this is not the case with the generality of my countrymen. They stood the greatest need of your Excellency's very seasonable letter. I have agreeable [to] your Excellency's permission, made the most public use of it. I permitted it first, together with Governor Trumbull's, to be read in Dutch to persons of rank and influence; and finding the deep impression they made, caused them afterwards to be openly published in print. One of my near kinsmen, the Baron Van der Capellen of Marsch, who notwithstanding his affection for America, had not yet dared to venture his money in the American funds, was thereby so thoroughly convinced, that he immediately promised me 16,000 guilders.

The reason why the thirteen United States have not found that credit in our country which the solidity of their cause deserve, is solely and entirely to be ascribed to this, that on the one hand, we are altogether ignorant of the true situation of your affairs, and on the other

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hand that the English cease not to propagate all manner of disadvantageous reports against you, and to diffuse the most idle and groundless reports invented to aggrandize their own exploits as real and undoubted events. Now, they have subjected certain States; then, others are ready to follow the example. One while there is discord in the Congress; at another time the nation is inclin'd and even impatient to reconcile itself to England. Nay, even at this very instant when by the open declaration of Spain all reasonable men must see the impossibility of England's ever subduing America, which was before that far above her power, — the incursion into Virginia and the burning of two small villages with some shipping is represented and by many beleived, as if the whole independency was thereby endangered. We deduce from it as a consequence that America is not sufficiently powerfull to protect her possessions, without considering that the most potent people in the world not excepting France itself, is not in a condition to defend *all* its cities and villages against *every* unexpected attack that may be made by the means of shipping.

If the credit of Congress is ever established in our republic on a firm foundation (as it certainly will be) it is necessary that the Hollanders should henceforth be made acquainted with America in its present circumstances, its form of government, population, lands, maritime power, trade, agriculture, resources, & disposition & manner of thinking of the people. In particular, as far as is practicable, repeated accounts ought to be transmitted of what daily occurs. But in order to render them useful, they ought greatly to differ from the hatch'd-up narratives of the English. They ought to comprehend everything, even the disadvantages that are inseperable from the fate of war, they ought in short, to be credible.

The presence of Coll° Diricks here has been of inconceivable benefit. This gentleman (with whom I was very

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glad to make an acquaintance, and the rather as he is of a good family in my province, and has, according to the testimonies with which he is furnished, reflected honour upon his native country by his conduct in the service of Congress) has thrown new light on several matters, and particularly on the present state of the American military force, bravery & exploits; of this we had little or no knowledge. Meanwhile the American cause suffers in this country more prejudice for the want of necessary information than can be imagined. This I have requested in my former letter to Governor Trumbull in the strongest manner and tendered my services to make the necessary use of it for the advantage of America; not knowing at that time that America then had here an old & faithfull servant M^r^ Dumas at the Hague. To this gentleman who serves America with heart & soul and has done chearful service, everything of a public nature may be transmitted. Am I capable of assisting him in any thing? Am I capable of promoting in the least, in my *narrow sphere*, the concerns of America? Nothing will be more agreeable to me. Coll^o^ Diricks can declare that my attachment to it is not barely speculative. Well known through the whole republic, and having many correspondents of every sort, I hope that my endeavours to procure loans for Congress will prove succesful. The Roman Catholicks here are very numerous and exceedingly warm in favour of America. I think something considerable may be done with them. I have in my province an extensive acquaintance with them, and can by the means of those obtain an introduction to others, their fellow-believers. Pity it is that at the moment that Spain declared, no negotiation was opened. The majority is at present of one mind, which probably of itself, probably by a little detail that may be recounted by the English, probably for the very reason that nothing is done, may again subside; the credit of England now

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begins in the opinion of many to stagger. We begin to think more seriously about that of America; and for this reason, *now* is the proper time to commence a negotiation. As soon as one sheep (says the Dutch proverb) is over the bridge, the rest follow. The art only lies in getting over the *first*.

If I may use so much liberty, I am of opinion (under correction) that the Congress would do well to send hither a person of distinction and prudence to transact their affairs. The time to receive openly a minister from the thirteen United States is indeed not yet arrived. This the republick (as I apprehend) even if they should enter into a war with England, will never consent to, till peace is obtained, and America declared independent by this court. It is moreover impossible for her, being on the land side everywhere naked, to be able to do otherwise, how well disposed soever she may be towards America. She can only remain neuter. But I should at the same time judge it highly serviceable that the gentleman who shall in due time be destined by Congress for such minister should immeadiately come, and keep himself only incognito, and as a private person, to learn the language and advantages of the country; and, which is always of great importance, as appears by Sir Joseph York, make his acquaintance and connections; and in the mean time, manage the affairs of America in silence, till the critical moment, that may enable him to appear in a public character, which moment I think cannot be far distant, because I cannot apprehend how England can longer prosecute the war. From such a man America might derive signal service. The correspondence with our republic, at second hand through France, is rather too dilatory. That department appears to have as much or rather more business than it can dispatch; and I fear that the affairs of America suffer on that account.

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From the situation of public affairs in our republic, we cannot at present conclude anything certain. I have mention in my former to Governor Trumbull of the efforts of Amsterdam, to which she had added Harlem, to prevent the ruling powers of the Province of Holland, nay the whole States, from averting their eyes (on the lordly demand of England) from the liberty given us by treaties, and the law of nations, to transport ship-timber and meterials to France in time of war. I even then remarked that those endeavours were at first fruitless; that the ruling powers of Holland as well as the other provinces were not pleased for some time to concur with the sentiments of Amsterdam, but have conceeded this to England, regardless of the patience of the French Court, which justly considers this step as a violation of the neutrality. It is certain that the consequence of this has been that the King of France by a new tarif or edict * has laid a duty of 15 per cent on all goods imported from the republic, exempting only the cities of Amsterdam and Harlem *in consideration of their patriotic zeal.* This edict, rigorously executed, cannot but reduce all the principal trading cities to the greatest extremity. It must bring Rotterdam to the very brink of destruction. The merchants of all the commercial cities have presented petition on petition to the States and Stadholder, which at first availed nothing. The necessity is however at last become so urgent, that Amsterdam and Harlem have obtained the majority of the Assembly of Holland in their favour, & that so lately as the 24th of June. It is resolved by the States of that province to send circular letters to all the other provinces to admonish them in the most serious manner speedily and chearfully to resolve on the subject of an *unlimited* convoy of *all* licit merchandize,

* Your Excellency will be pleas'd to observe that we have no commercial treaty with France, and that the king is thus at liberty to deprive us of, or to grant us, all such priviledges as he sees proper. We have no right to demand the least.

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and then have subjoined to it a *secret* and *unanimous* resolution that if the other six provinces shall neglect for the space of one month to act agreeable to the reasonable expectations of their High Mightinesses, that in such case and from thenceforth a committee will be established to advise what measures it will be necessary to adopt to satisfy the serious intentions of their High Mightinesses, and for removing the just complaints of the suffering cities and places of the Province of Holland. This has been attended with this consequence, that the French ambassador has thereupon (on the 2d of July) made this declaration to the States of Holland.

"His Majesty, having seen the resolution taken by the States of the Province of Holland the 24 of June, has charged his ambassador with the States General, that he has principally for the benefit of the Province of Holland *alone* suspended the operation of the resolution of his Court of the 26 January, the 27 April, and 5 June to the first of August. That in consequence hereof all the inhabitants of the said province till the appointed period shall enjoy all the liberties and priviledges that have been granted hitherto to those of Amsterdam and Harlem exclusively, provided they are furnished with a certificate from the Commissary of the Marine at Amsterdam or of the Agent of the Marine at Rotterdam. That his Majesty has made known his intentions on this head, to all the admiralties of his kingdom, because it is his Majesty's resolution that *as soon as the unlimitted convoys are dispatched*, he will permit to be returned to that province all the moneys which have resulted from his impost, that may have already been received, in virtue of the said edict. His Majesty assures himself that this new proof of his good inclination will more and more illustrate the propriety of his plan, which is solely adopted to promote the interest of their High Mightinesses, provided, above all things, that they do not re-

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cede from the strict neutrality, of which it behoves him never to lose sight.

"His Majesty charges his ambassador farther to give notice, that if the result of the neutrality of the republic shall not be reduced to a certainty by the limitted time of the first of August by means of a powerful protection of the convoys, agreeable to the laws of general congruity, and what is stipulated by the treaties, the aforementioned edicts of the 26 January, 27 April, and 5th June will again commence to be put into execution, without deeming it necessary to make any new declaration on the part of his Majesty."

What effect this declaration will produce, cannot at present be affirmed with certainty. We must first await the resolutions of the ruling provinces, in the majority of which the Stadholder has an unbounded influence. And that the Province of Holland alone, which indeed has sufficient weight for the purpose, will effectually take the great step, in case of the farther refusal of the ruling powers, of equipping and convoying ships on her own account, that is, commence war against England, is scarcely credible. Our men of war indeed lye principally in Holland; but they are the property of the whole Union. The sea officers are in the service of the States General, and must receive their orders from his Highness as Admiral General of the Union. To build and equip a competent number of ships on their own account, requires so much time, that peace would probably be concluded before they would be ready for service. And then we must moreover suppose that the States of Holland were sufficiently unanimous amongst themselves, to take a step of such eclat and importance. Hitherto Amsterdam has effected whatever respects the affair of the convoy with the inconsiderable majority of 10 to 8 voices. The resolve alone for appointing a committee, N. B. to deliberate measures of damage, was

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taken unanimously. But this resolution (in my opinion) obliges the members to *nothing*. We may yet long deliberate about those measures of damage without establishing any thing, unless it be any establishment that all propositions respecting the care of marine affairs should be thrown upon the Province of Holland alone, referring to the others the land forces; in which, as it would certainly be an infraction of the Union, whereby the influence of the Stadholder would acquire irresistible strength, they would meet with so much opposition, as never to come to a conclusion, and this not taking place, and the other provinces continuing to keep and exercise their influence in naval affairs, I see not that Holland can avail itself of any other compulsory measure. She might indeed keep back her quota, and thus distress the confederacy, tho' by this we should not procure trade; and perhaps the other provinces might also on their parts undertake something, which ought however to be deemed next to impossible, considering that the regulations of the French Court relative to our republic are far from having the approbation of our nation. We daily hear them openly condemned, and with great acrimony, as incompatible with their dignity and independance; and this by men reputed, and really appearing to be zealous patriots. We in general hate the English most heartily; but we have nevertheless not yet learnt to love the French, tho' our natural friends.

In the year 1756 the English most cruelly distressed our navigation, so that we can count above fifty million that were illegally taken from our merchants; not to mention the inhuman cruelties inflicted upon our defenceless seamen. What did we? We complained; we remonstrated; we sent ambassadors extraordinary; we treated, and treated again, from one year to another, till the peace was concluded. And I beleive it will be the very case now. It is true 32 ships are agreed upon to

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be taken into service, besides those already at sea, which amount to about the same number. But whether as great dispatch is used in the matter as might be, I cannot determine. That I leave to its proper department.

We have at present in Amsterdam the celebrated M^r^ Stephen Sayre, late Sherif of London, a native of America, full of fire, spirit, and affection for his country. He has invented a very singular kind of ship, of construction altogether new, to appearance much stronger in its make, less expensive, and a swifter sailer than any other hitherto seen. It may be entirely built, if that is one's choice, of pine. Our best ship-wrights, and several respectable American captains, now here, pronounce in its favour. One cannot but wonder at the simplicity of the invention. Some merchants have already contracted to have one built, which was to be set on the stocks yesterday. But what is of more importance M^r^ Sayre has invented a plan perfectly original, to build ships of war; a plan that I beleive never before entered into the imagination of man, tho' founded on the most simple principles. He will, as soon as possible, open the matter to Congress in person; and has in the meantime, for fear of a disaster on his voyage, committed the secret to me, to preserve for the benefit of America. I have no skill in ships or naval affairs. I therefore do not take upon me to decide concerning it. But as it appears to me, the invention is of the utmost moment; and I believe that the observation of M^r^ Sayre, *that the power which shall first introduce it into the marine, will be able to annihilate that of its enemies*, certainly merits the consideration of Congress. The secret I shall the meanwhile keep sacred; hoping ho[w]ever, that thro' the safe arival of the inventor, Congress will not be necessitated.

[*Cætera desunt.*]

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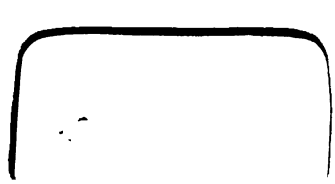

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